

Consumers' Research Bulletin



November 1950

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CONSUMERS' RESEARCH

Vol. 26 • No. 5

BULLETIN

November 1950

Off the Editor's Chest

THE big city department store has often occupied the role of purchasing agent for the consumer. In various agencies set up to represent consumers' interests in Washington, D.C., particularly during World War II, and in committees dealing with specification and standardization work, department and mail-order store executives and department store technical consultants have customarily been regarded as spokesmen for consumers, to an important extent. The chairman of the Consumer Committee of the American Standards Association has from time to time been selected from among department store executives.

That a consumer point of view is regarded as normal for department stores is borne out by a court decision of several years back in which the District Court of Appeals in Washington, D. C., held that a local department store was responsible for injuries suffered by a woman when a chenille robe she had purchased at the store burst into flames when she lit a cigarette. The Court held that since the purchaser was not a textile expert she clearly and properly relied on the store's judgment that the article she bought was fit for use.

It is obvious that department stores and mail-order houses with their large funds and extensive influence among suppliers can exert tremendous

force on manufacturers to secure better and more economical products for consumers. Some forward-looking stores recognize their responsibilities to consumers in this direction and do devote a small portion of their funds and personnel to testing, investigating, setting specifications, and seeing to it that products are better and more informatively labeled to some extent. In time of shortages, however, when customers are more plentiful than products, there is a temptation to take the path of least resistance, and instead of making an active effort to obtain products that are of particularly good value, simply to have the store serve as a display room for the products of such manufacturers as will yield the maximum profit for a minimum amount of effort and expense.

Consider, for example, the shift in sales policy of Gimbel Bros., of New York, discussed in *Business Week* magazine, July 29, 1950, from vigorous promotion of unbranded products to the featuring of nationally-known brands. As the article pointed out, national brand products cost more, because of the vast advertising and distributing programs of the manufacturers, but the retailer benefits in that he does not need to spend money on full-page advertisements for the nationally-known items, since

(Continued on page 13)

Consumers' Research functions to provide unbiased information on goods bought by ultimate consumers. For their benefit (not for business or industry) and solely with the funds they provide, CR carries on tests and research on a wide variety of goods, materials, and appliances, and publishes the findings in CR Bulletin. Consumers' Research is a non-profit institution, and is organized and operates as a scientific, technical, and educational organization. Scientific and Technical Staff and Editors: F. J. Schlunk, R. Joyce, Dwight C. Aten, M. C. Phillips, Erma A. Hinek, and A. R. Greenleaf. Editorial Assistants: Mary F. Roberts and B. Beam. Business Manager: C. D. Cornish.

Symbols used to indicate sources of data and bases of ratings: A—recommended on basis of quality; AA—regarded as worthy of highest recommendation; B—intermediate with respect to quality; C—not recommended on basis of quality; cr—information from Consumers' Research's own tests or investigations; 1, 2, 3—relative prices, 1 being low, 3 high. Note that price and quality are completely differentiated in CR's listings; a quality judgment is independent of price; 49, 50—year in which test was made or information obtained or organized by the staff of Consumers' Research.

It will be advantageous if you will, whenever possible, send prompt notice of change of address at least 5 weeks before it is to take effect, accompanying your notice with statement of your old address with name in full. At least a month's notice must be given in any case. This rule, however, regarding long advance notice does not apply to military personnel.

*CR will, of course, gladly change addresses for men and women in the services as often as required by changes in station and other circumstances.

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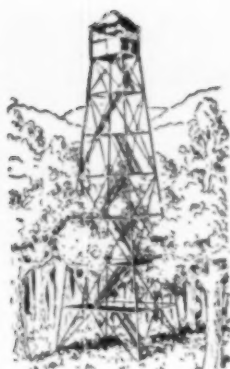
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The Consumers' Observation Post

TELEVISION is cutting into movie patronage, but radio tends to recover its audience as the novelty of a television set wears off, reports Television Digest. According to one survey, each new television set installed means a loss of the sale of 54 tickets for adults, 44 for children, during the year. One researcher takes the position that TV is radio's best friend because it keeps people home. What impact the current war preparations will have on television is not yet fully clear, but as early as the middle of August TV manufacturers were complaining about a shortage of certain types of receiving tubes.

GELATIN THERAPY has proved effective in treating fragility of fingernails, in 12 cases studied by Dr. T. L. Tyson of New York City. Writing in the Journal of Investigative Dermatology, Dr. Tyson reported that all 12 women with soft, peeling, easily-broken fingernails had used nail polish, and most had received local treatment without improvement. He found that when his patients were given 7 gm. (about 1 tablespoonful) of powdered gelatin, once a day dissolved in water or fruit juice, for three months, the nails in the cases of 10 women assumed a completely normal appearance.

FOR SAFETY'S SAKE make it a point to use your parking brake at least once a day when you are driving a car, advises a safety engineer of a large automobile manufacturer. In his opinion such a test is best made at the ten-to-twenty-mile speed range, to familiarize the driver with the location and action of the brake in the event it is needed because of failure of the service-brake system. Such a try-out will also give him an idea of what performance he can expect from the parking brake in an emergency. When having a service inspection, be sure that the parking brake is given a thorough check-up, as well as the service brake. In other words, see that the mechanic servicing your car goes over the complete braking system, inspecting the master cylinder, wheel brake cylinders, brake lines, hoses, and connections for evidence of leakage or deterioration.

THE COMMON HOUSEHOLD DRY-CLEANING SOLVENT, carbon tetrachloride, is a cause of frequent poisoning, in the opinion of Dr. Robert M. Farrier and Dr. Richard H. Smith, both of Staten Island. Writing in the Journal of the American Medical Association, these two doctors report twelve cases of illness, with five fatalities, in the past two years due to this household cleaning fluid, and point out that several New York hospitals have noticed recent increases in such cases. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that in dry cleaning or even "spotting" clothes at home, the work should be done out of doors or in a very well-ventilated room (e.g., a room with several windows and doors open, on a day when there is a good breeze to cause rapid air movement), and special care should be taken to avoid any more breathing of the vapors of the solvent used than is absolutely necessary.

CANNED SALMON sold in the state of North Dakota is required to carry on the label of each can the name of the species of salmon that is contained therein. The five varieties are: Chinook, or Chinook King or Chinook Spring; Red or Red Blueback or Red Sockeye; Coho, or Coho Medium Red or Coho Silver; Pink or Humpback; Chum, Keta or Dog. The quality is generally in the order of listing, the last being the poorest. In 1949, the State Laboratories Department of North Dakota issued "stop sale" orders on 12 different brands of canned

salmon which had failed to show on the label the species of salmon in the can. On examination it was found that in all except possibly one case the improperly labeled salmon was of the Chum or lowest variety. Consumers in other states which are not so progressive in the field of food and drug control may well assume that if the name "Salmon" appears on the label without any species designation, the product is one of the lower qualities of salmon.

* * *

TOYS MADE OF PLASTIC have many advantages over those made from other materials, but they also have some shortcomings. Plastics made of cellulose acetate, for example, points out Bernard Smith, department store merchandise manager, are tough and resistant to breakage, but some acetates are flammable and some do not withstand exposure to outdoor weather particularly well. The polystyrene plastics can also be used for toys, but cannot stand contact with hot water or outdoor weather conditions, nor withstand high impact. The wise consumer will do well to bear in mind the disadvantages of certain plastics in purchasing Christmas toys.

* * *

WHETHER THE ANTIHISTAMINE DRUGS are helpful in the treatment of common colds is a matter of continuing debate. So far as claims are concerned, the position of the Federal Trade Commission seems to be that products containing such drugs may be advertised as helpful in treating the symptoms of colds, but cannot claim to cure or stop the cold itself. To the person of little or no legal training, that may seem a distinction without much of a difference. At a panel meeting of The American College of Physicians this past spring, there was some disagreement about the value of the antihistamine drugs, but the majority appeared to be of the opinion that the most effective are the antihistamines that are restricted to prescription use, which are more potent and at the same time more dangerous. Three cases of hemolytic anemia (anemia with active destruction of red corpuscles) in patients who had taken antihistamine drugs over long periods of time have been reported by Dr. James J. Crumbley of Philadelphia in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

* * *

THE RATES FOR AUTO ACCIDENT INSURANCE range from \$12 in Denver, Colorado, to \$72 in New York City for the same policy. The difference is due to the number of accidents and damage claims per year which are much higher in New York City, according to a study made by The Wall Street Journal. Rates are filed by the National Bureau of Casualty Underwriters once a year for its member companies and are based on the number of accidents and the cost of claims in a particular section. In Denver, for example, there were only 15 claims for every thousand insured cars during the current period checked as against New York's record of 75 claims for every thousand. Elmira, N.Y., where traffic laws are strictly enforced, had its insurance rate cut 14 percent in May 1950 because of its good record. Young drivers are reported to cause five times as many fatal accidents as drivers in the 45-60 age group; bodily-injury, property-damage insurance for a car driven by a person under 25 costs 15 percent more than for older drivers. Good traffic laws and strict enforcement are important factors in bringing down the cost of auto insurance in any particular section.

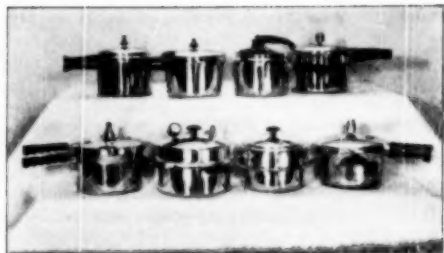
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HOT, HIGHLY SEASONED FOOD is held to be one cause of stomach cancer. In Mexico and other countries where food is highly seasoned, gastric ulcers are a common occurrence, according to Dr. Claude E. Welch of Harvard University Medical School. Dr. Welch also holds that one reason Japanese women have much less trouble with stomach cancer is that traditionally they are obliged to wait until their husbands have finished a meal before they are permitted to eat. By that time the food has cooled sufficiently to be less injurious to the stomach lining.

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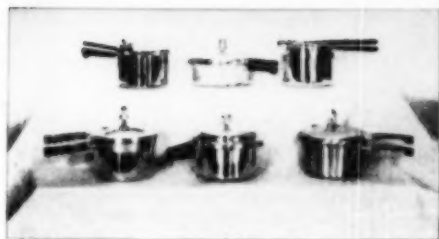
GAS POISONING from a combination of two cleaning agents was held to be the cause of death in one case and illness in another this past fall in Flint, Michigan, where the county coroner reported a fatality caused by inhaling fumes from a mixture of Roman Cleanser and Sani-Flush. In the other case, a woman was taken to a hospital for treatment after combining Roman Cleanser and Bowl-

(The continuation of this section is on page 29)



Top, left to right: Magic Seal, Maid of Honor Model 629-J, Wear-Ever Model 3634, Ekonomic.

Bottom, left to right: Swiftly Cook Model 10, Burpee AR 6, Burpee inset pan, Presto Cook-Master Model 404.



Top, left to right: Rover, Presto Fry-Master Model 400, West Bend Model 1654.

Bottom, left to right: Alcamatic Model 1000, Alcamatic Model 394M, Magiccook Model 4.

PRESSURE SAUCEPANS

ANY housewife who must be away from her home a good deal, or who works at an office or other job, finds that a pressure saucepan is a very desirable utensil. With its use, she finds it possible to cook and serve in a short time foods that take a long time to cook by usual methods. A 4-pound pot roast of beef, for example, can be browned and cooked and served in less than an hour as compared with about 2½ hours.

Savings, except of time in cooking, however, are not large. A study made at the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station in 1947 by Merna M. Monroe showed that the use of a pressure saucepan did not save much on the fuel bill if the pan was used only once in a while for roasts and other foods that are cooked for a long time. Savings were also small if the cost of the fuel used was low, or if the stove was of a kind that could be regulated for a low heat.

Some foods have a better flavor when cooked in a pressure saucepan. In the same Maine study, it was found that green beans, green peas, and lima beans all tasted better when pressure-cooked. A pressure saucepan can be used for canning as well as for cooking, if one is chosen that is large enough to hold the jars.

The first pressure saucepans usually provided for cooking at one pressure only, 10 or 15 pounds per square inch. In this study of 13 pans, only two, the *Wear-Ever* and the *Swiftly Cook*, were limited to one pressure (15 pounds); one, the *West Bend*, provided two pressures (10 and 15 pounds). All

the rest had provisions for maintaining three or more pressures, usually 5, 10, 15, and sometimes 20 pounds, per square inch. The *Ekonomic* saucepan had a 3¾ pound per square inch weight regulator, which was recommended by the manufacturer for sterilizing babies' bottles and preparing



Figure 1 — Calibration of Regulator

Showing maximum pressure at 15 lb. setting of Alcamatic cooker.

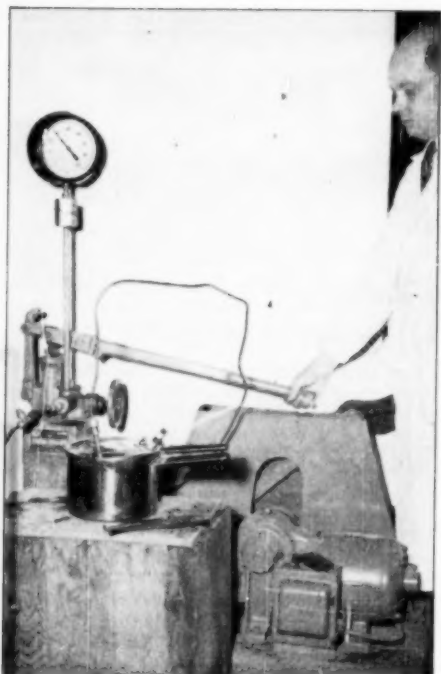


Figure 2 — Hydrostatic Test

Showing spray issuing from broken seal near handle of the Revere cooker.

babies' formulas. Low pressures, such as $3\frac{3}{4}$ and 5 pounds per square inch, are considered desirable in any pressure saucepan; they are preferred by many housewives for use in cooking certain foods such as frozen vegetables, which have been blanched and thus cook faster.

All pressure saucepans have both a pressure-regulating device and some sort of means for indicating whether the selected pressure is being maintained. In some cases, these are combined. On the saucepans tested, the pressure-regulating device was a weight-loaded valve or a spring-loaded valve. Spring-loaded valves are considered undesirable because of the likelihood of their becoming inaccurate.

The pressure-indicating device to show visually that the pressure is being maintained is a very desirable feature of a pressure saucepan. It is difficult, therefore, to understand why this convenient safeguard in the use of a pressure saucepan would have been omitted in some of the modern utensils.

Only one of the pressure saucepans tested, the *Burpee*, had a pressure gauge as a pressure indicator. Its pressure-regulating device, a needle valve, was

unsatisfactory, however, because in use it became much too hot to be touched by the fingers and operated in the manner suggested by the manufacturer. Only two other saucepans tested, the two *Presto* pans, had a visual indicator to show the pressure — a rod with three indicating marks engraved on it which was elevated as pressure rose. This indicator was judged unsatisfactory as a means of regulating the pressure to 5 and 10 pounds, however, because it was controlled by a rubber diaphragm and a spring and would tend to become inaccurate with use and in use required adjustment of the heat supplied to the pan so that the rod would remain elevated to the right height. All three of these pans failed in at least one of the safety tests.

On all other pans tested, the maintenance of pressure was indicated by such unsatisfactory methods as a hiss of escaping steam or by a rocking, jiggling, or fluttering of the weights. One maker even expected the housewife to judge the correctness of the pressure regulation by the number of jiggles per minute. A continual or pulsing escape of steam as required by the usual means of indication could cause sufficient loss of water to run into the danger of the food burning.

CR believes that the *pressure regulator* should be a weight and should operate independently and that a *pressure indicator*, to be fully satisfactory, should be a visual one, preferably a regular pressure gauge, so that the pressure inside the pan may be observed at all times. If a pressure saucepan is to be used for canning, such a gauge is a necessity, in order to safeguard the health of persons eating the food processed. If a pressure saucepan is to be used for preparing foods for table use only, a pressure gauge is perhaps not indispensable. Nevertheless, if the regulating device happens to be inaccurate, as it was in some cases, food will be considerably overcooked or undercooked, depending upon the direction of the error, until the user acquires experience with the appliance.

This was well illustrated by the results of one of the performance tests. In this test one cup of water was placed in a sample of each saucepan which was provided with a calibrated test gauge. The saucepan was placed over a gas burner adjusted to deliver full heat. This heat input was continued until the pressure regulating device operated, and that operating pressure was noted. The heat input was further continued until the maximum pressure for the particular setting was reached. It was found that these two pressure readings were often several pounds per square inch apart. Because of this or because of errors in the manufacture of the pressure regulator, the pressures at which cooking was actually done might be considerably above or below that intended. Particularly large errors were found

in some cases. On the *Alcamatic*, for example, at the 5-pound setting the normal pressure regulating device began to operate at about 5 pounds, and the maximum pressure attained at that setting was about 9 pounds. On the same saucepan at the 20-pound setting, the device began operating at 16 pounds, and the maximum pressure was 25 pounds (a range of 9 pounds per square inch).

Of the three saucepans rated *B. Intermediate*, the *Mirro-Matic* and the *West Bend* provided the best regulation; however, errors exceeding 10 percent of the nominal pressures were found in all three.

Gauges can be inaccurate also and should be checked at least once a year — more often than that if at any time the indicator fails to return very nearly to zero or if some accident occurs which might have harmed the gauge, even though there is no apparent evidence of damage. Many states have made provision for the testing of pressure

gauges; information on a particular state's program may usually be obtained from the county Home Demonstration agent of the state extension service, or through the state college of agriculture and home economics.

All of the saucepans tested were of 4-, 4½-, or 5-quart capacity. The actual capacity of the saucepans, however, was more nearly 2½ to 3 quarts, inasmuch as directions for all cookers call for their not being filled when in use. Filling a pressure saucepan too full is risky in any case, as there is always the possibility that the vent will become clogged, and a dangerous overpressure, even an explosion, might be the result. Two of the cookers tested, the *Presto Fry-Master* and the *Alcamatic*, had a shield inside the lids, which covered the venting orifice, to minimize the danger of clogging.

All of the saucepans tested but one, the *Revere*, were listed as carrying the seal of the Recexamina-

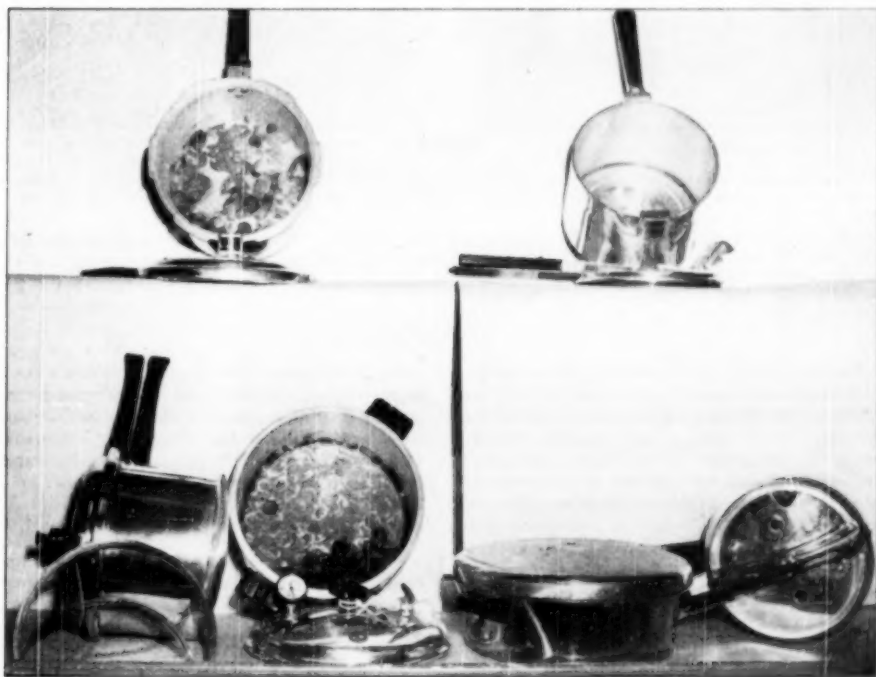


Figure 3

Showing three results each of dry-heat — cold-quench test and hydrostatic pressure test.

Dry-Heat and Cold-Quench Test. Top left: *Ekconomic*, undamaged. Bottom left: *Magic Seal*, deformed bottom, embrittled broken gasket. Bottom, second from left: *Burpee AR 4*, deformed, and charred food on bottom, gauge burned out.

Hydrostatic Test. Top right: *West Bend*, undamaged. Bottom, second from right: *Presto Fry-Master*, split and cracked cover, cracked cover projections. Bottom right: *Wear-Ever*, buckled cover.

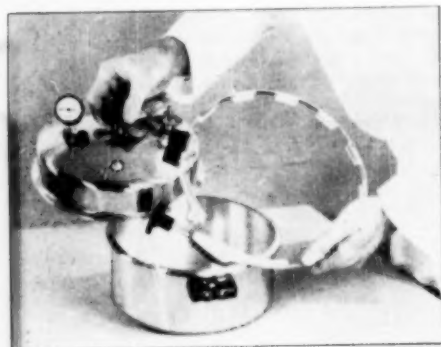


Figure 4

The four pans above illustrate the four different modes of sealing used in the saucepans tested. At the top left is a "sliding-lug closure"; the lid is placed on the pan and rotated until projections on cover and body lock into position. Below it is a "sealing-band" type of closure.

At the top right is a flexible or elastic lid being inserted inside pan. A lever on the top of the lid springs it into place against cooker body. At the bottom right is a fourth type, with cover being inserted under a lip on cooker body.

tion Service of the Underwriters' Laboratories. The Underwriters' listing in such cases covers the operation of the pressure-regulating device and the overpressure safety release, and requires that the saucepan closure device be such that it cannot be opened while dangerous amounts of pressure still remain. A saucepan is also required to withstand without bursting or other failure a pressure of at least five times the maximum operating or working pressure, in the hydrostatic pressure test (see Figure 2).

Although the UL label cannot, of course, be a guarantee of the safety of the pan, consumers will undoubtedly be wise to avoid buying pressure saucepans which do not carry the UL label. Unfortunately, the label itself is usually merely a gummed seal affixed to the pan with an adhesive. A more permanent marking such as the stamping or embossing of the mark, which is permitted by the Underwriters' Laboratories, would be desirable

from the consumer's standpoint. When a gummed label becomes loosened and falls off, the consumer has no way of knowing if the pan is listed under the Reexamination Service of the Underwriters' Laboratories, unless the pan itself is fully identified by a stamped or raised name and number and unless he has access to the Underwriters' printed lists of appliances tested for safety and approved.

CR's tests fell into two categories. The first of these was a series of six tests to determine the safety and operating features of the saucepans; four of these were similar to the Underwriters' mentioned briefly above, but CR's requirements are more stringent in some respects. CR requires that a safety release operate at or below a pressure of 35 pounds per square inch. UL requirements allow twice the maximum operating pressure and thus in some cases allow 50 pounds. If the safety device should operate only at a relatively high pressure, the food in the saucepan is likely to be pro-

jected by steam pressure to the ceiling of the kitchen, and the results could be dangerous to a person near by as well as damaging to the walls and ceiling.

Each pressure saucepan was tested to determine how well it retained pressure (absence of undue leakage) and was given a laboratory cooking test to determine safety in practical use, effect of cooling the overheated saucepan in cold water, and ease of cleaning. Temperature measurements were made on parts likely to be touched during the cooking process. When temperatures were found too high according to CR's standards (no more than 130°F for metal and 150°F for other materials), mention is made in the listings.

In the second series of CR's tests, the saucepans were given actual use tests and were examined by a home economist with special qualifications in the use of household equipment. She made observations as to the ease of using them in a home and cleaning them. The shape of the top edge of the saucepan, it was found, was very important for ease of serving. A wide flange on a pan, as on the *Mirro-Matic*, or an inwardly curved lip or top, as on the *Revere* and the *Wear-Ever*, makes it difficult to remove food from the pan. From this expert homemaker's standpoint, also, there should not be small loose or removable parts with a saucepan, for replacement of these in case they become lost or damaged will be troublesome and time consuming.

None of the saucepans tested met CR's requirements for an *A-Recommended* rating for a pressure saucepan. Briefly, three of these are: (1) presence of both a satisfactory visual pressure indicator and a weight-type regulator to maintain a constant pressure without regard to the amount of heat being supplied so long as heat is sufficient; (2) an emergency release which will act to prevent rise of pressure above 35 pounds; (3) a sufficiently tight seal to permit pressure to be maintained without difficulty. Other requirements concern good construction and finish, convenience in use, and ease of cleaning.

The saucepans that are rated *B. Intermediate* would warrant an *A-Recommended* rating if their use was to be confined to food preparation for meals only. The *B-Intermediate* rating applies to these saucepans if purchased for use in cooking and canning.

In rating the saucepans, safety was given first consideration, and no saucepan was rated higher than *C. Not Recommended* if it failed in the hydrostatic pressure test or if at least one of its safety devices failed to operate at or below 35 pounds. Where no mention is made, a saucepan was found satisfactory in these two tests. All pans sealed sufficiently well to permit pressure to be maintained

easily, but the ones that were poorest in this respect are mentioned. All pans were made of aluminum except the *Revere*, which was stainless steel with a copper-clad bottom, and the *Wear-Ever*, which had a stainless steel cover.

B. Intermediate

Mirro-Matic, Model 394M (Aluminum Goods Mfg. Co., Manitowoc, Wis.) \$12.95. Weight, 4 lb. 12 oz. (lighter than average). Sliding-lug closure (see Figure 4). Removable, single-weight, multiple-seat pressure regulator (5, 10, 15 lb.). "Jiggle" of weight was only means of indicating whether pressure was above or below intended value (judged a poor method). Handle had wire loop device to prevent unintentional rotation of the lid. Emergency pressure release, fusible plug. In use test, wide flange on lid was considered a disadvantage. Temperature of regulator too high to be touched, but instructions recognize this, apparently, as they call for using a fork to lift it. 2

West Bend, Model 1654 (West Bend Aluminum Co., West Bend, Wis.) \$12.95. Weight, 5 lb. 3 oz. Sliding-lug closure. Hinged weight pressure regulator (10 and 15 lb.). "Flutter" of weight control is pressure indicator (judged a poor method). Emergency pressure release, fusible plug; in addition, saucepan was designed to vent at gasket. (In safety test, gasket safety operated at 28 lb., but fusible plug was still intact.) Had safety device for venting pressure in part if attempt is made to open prematurely. Temperature of regulator too high. 2

* * *

Ekonomic (Ekco Products Co., 1949 Cicero Ave., Chicago 39) \$14.95. Weight, 5 lb. 5 oz. (about average). Sliding-lug closure. Removable three-piece weight pressure regulator (3½, 10, 15 lb.). Slight hiss or occasional jiggling was only means of indicating whether pressure was above or below the intended value (judged a poor method). Emergency pressure release, rubber plug with metal plunger which was raised to release pressure. Temperature of regulator surface too high, but instructions call for using a fork to lift it. 3

C. Not Recommended

Magic Seal (Montgomery Ward's Cat. No. 86-68371) \$9.65, plus postage. Weight, 3 lb. 14 oz. (relatively light). Sliding-lug closure. Three-piece weighted pressure regulator (5, 10, and 15 lb.). Rocking of pressure regulator was pressure indicator (judged a poor method). Rubber plug blew out at 41 lb. (too high). Two projections on saucepan deformed at 44 lb. in hydrostatic pressure test (too low). 1

Magicook, Model 4 (Traubee Products, Inc., 924-36 Bergen St., Brooklyn 16, N. Y.) \$7.95. Weight, 5 lb. 2 oz. Sliding-lug closure. Adjustable spring-loaded pressure regulator (5, 10, 15 lb.). Hiss of escaping steam was only means of indicating whether pressure was above or below the intended value (judged a poor method). 1

od). Rubber plug with holes in wall released pressure at 37 lb. per sq. in. (a little too high); two other plugs released pressure at 44 and 38 lb. per sq. in. In use tests, valve lifter was mechanically defective. Temperature of regulator too high. 1

Swiftly Cook, Model 10 (Eastern Metal Products Co., Tuckahoe 7, N. Y.) \$7.95. Weight, 5 lb. 8 oz. Sliding-lug closure. Single-weight pressure regulator (15 lb.). "Sizzling" at weight was pressure indicator (judged a poor method). Fusible plug operated at 39 lb. (rather too high). Saucepan passed hydrostatic pressure test, but bottom showed a slight permanent deformation. The weight pressure regulator of this saucepan could be tipped with the finger to allow steam to escape, and saucepan did not have to be cooled with water. Using this method, the homemaker should be careful to allow all the steam to escape before opening the saucepan. Saucepan was similar to *Alcamatic* but did lack "vent guard." Temperature of metal part of regulator too high. 1

Burpee Aristocrat, No. AR 4 (Burpee Can Sealer Co., 128 W. Liberty St., Barrington, Ill.) \$12.95. Weight, 5 lb. 3 oz.; with inset pan (\$12 extra), 6 lb. 2 oz. The *Model AR 6* at \$14.95 is the same as the *AR 4* except that the cover is deeper (see illustrations). Sealed by a screw-tightened circular band (see Figure 4). Adjustable spring-loaded pressure regulator (0-20 lb.). Indicating pressure gauge, 0-20 lb., mounted on cover (see text). Fusible plug failed to operate at 52 lb. (too high); pressure was relieved at seal. In hydrostatic test, seal opened at 50 lb. per sq. in. Saucepan had inset pan for warm-wall cooking with its own adjustable pressure regulator. Saucepan was easy to clean, but the grooves on the underside of the inset pan were hard to clean. This saucepan was considered relatively awkward to use. Inset pan, which had no handles, was considered hazardous to use because it could be dropped easily. Temperature of regulator and handles of saucepan too high. 2

Maid of Honor, Model 620.4 (Sears Roebuck's Cat. No. 11-4693) \$11.45, plus postage. Weight, 5 lb. 5 oz. Sliding-lug closure. Three-piece weighted pressure regulator (5, 10, 15 lb.). Rocking of regulator was pressure indicator (judged a poor method). Rubber plug blew out at 50 lb. (too high) and saucepan vented rapidly to ceiling. Plastic knob on pressure regulator unscrewed easily (undesirable); also parts could be lost. 2

Wear-Ever, Model 3634 (Aluminum Cooking Utensil Co., New Kensington, Pa.) \$12.95. Weight, 3 lb. 11 oz. (relatively light). Cover inserted inside saucepan body and sealed by springing into place against an exposed rubber gasket (see Figure 4). Exposed gasket is subject

to accidental damage. Single-weight pressure control (15 lb.). Jiggling of pressure regulator was pressure indicator (judged a poor method). Rubber plug. Failed in hydrostatic pressure test; cover buckled at 65 lb. (too low). Lost pressure relatively rapidly. Inwardly curved top made it difficult to remove food from pan. Method of closing considered inconvenient and awkward. 2

Alcamatic, Model 1600 (Alcamatic Products Corp., Alcamatic Bldg., Tuckahoe 7, N. Y.) \$14.95. Weight, 5 lb. 8 oz. Sliding-lug closure. Adjustable spring-loaded pressure regulator (0-20 lb.). Hiss of escaping steam was pressure indicator (judged a poor method). Fusible plug operated at 46 lb. (too high). Failed in hydrostatic test: cover near handle deformed at 118 lb. (too low). Lost pressure relatively rapidly. Had shield over venting orifice (desirable, but shield was crude). The pressure regulator of this saucepan was such that the saucepan could be easily vented without cooling in cold water. (See comment under *Swiftly Cook*.) Pressure regulator could be disassembled, a disadvantage since parts could be easily lost. 3

National Presto Cook-Master, Model 404 (National Pressure Cooker Co., Eau Claire, Wis.) \$14.95. Weight, 5 lb. 6 oz. Sliding-lug closure. Removable, single-weight, spring-loaded single pressure regulator (15 lb.). Rod marked at 5, 10, 15 lb. was indicator (judged fairly good); see text. Rubber plug blew out at 49 lb. (too high) and steam was projected to ceiling. 3

National Presto Fry-Master Cooker, Model 400 (National Pressure Cooker Co.) \$16.95. Weight, 7 lb. 15 oz. Sliding-lug closure. Removable, single-weight, spring-loaded pressure regulator (15 lb.). Visual indicator (judged fairly good). (See comments under *Presto Cook-Master*.) Rubber plug. Failed hydrostatic pressure test (projections on pan cracked at 75; cover split at 80). Had shield over venting orifice (desirable). 3

Revere (Revere Copper-Brass Inc., Rome Mfg. Co. Div., Rome, N. Y.) \$16.95. Weight, about 5 lb. 8 oz. Exposed rubber gasket formed seal with tapered lip of body of saucepan and was held in position by lip at handle (see Figure 4). Hinged triple-weighted cam-controlled pressure regulator (5, 10, 15 lb.). Slight hiss of escaping steam was pressure indicator (judged a poor method). Fusible plug failed to vent at 51 lb. (too high); pressure escaped under lip at handle (saucepan deformed). Second sample failed in hydrostatic test: cover retaining lip deformed at 51 lb. (too low). Lip made it difficult to remove food and was considered difficult to clean. 3

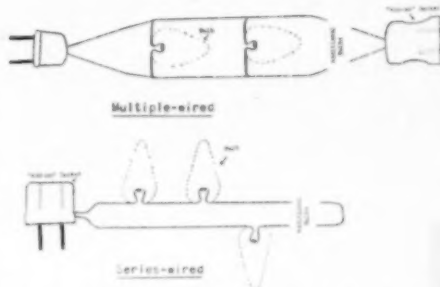
STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233) Of Consumers' Research Bulletin published monthly at Washington, N. J., and Easton, Pa., for September 1949-September 1950. 1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Consumers' Research, Inc., Washington, N. J.; Editor, F. J. Schlink, Washington, N. J.; Managing editor, none; Business manager, Charles D. Cornish, Washington, N. J. 2. The owner is: (1) owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None. 4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting; also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner. C. D. Cornish, Sworn to and subscribed before me this eighteenth day of September, 1950. Marie M. Beers (Notary Public). (My commission expires May 14, 1951.)

Christmas Tree Lights

THOUGH stringing various colored electric lights to the family tree at Christmas is a relatively simple matter, it may not always be a safe procedure, for there is always present a possibility of injury from shock or of setting a fire, and many grave accidents and fires have occurred from defective Christmas tree lights. No one but a qualified electric wireman should ever attempt to repair an old or poorly made light set having defects or faults, for if the work is not done expertly, there is serious risk of injury or even loss of life from fire or shock. Lighting with candles is never under any circumstances to be resorted to, since the likelihood of an uncontrollable fire occurring is very great when any light involving a flame is used.

A common fault of Christmas tree lights is insulation that is of poor quality or has become worn, or that is not well bonded or adherent to the wires which carry the current. Sockets that have two or more wires entering through the same opening are more likely to cause a short circuit when the insulation becomes worn than those which provide separate openings for each wire. Another fault often seen is a design which permits exposure of a part of the lamp base (the threaded metal section) so that the metallic tinsel suspended from the tree may make contact with the lamp base or the inside shell of the lamp socket.

A number of firms in the Christmas tree light industry unfortunately do not follow the practice of showing the name and address of the manufacturer on the boxes in which the lights are sold. CR advises against buying any lights which do not give the full name and address of the manufacturer, since without that information the consumer's position, in case legal action might be necessary

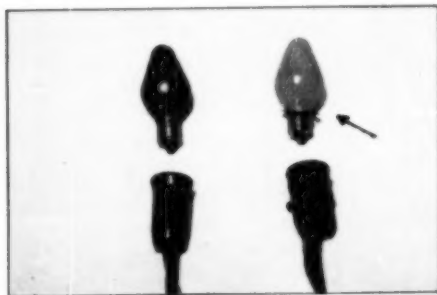


The above sketch shows how the wiring is done for multiple- and series-wired sets and why in the multiple-wired circuits (also called "parallel" wiring) if one bulb fails the entire string does not go out. In the series-wired circuit, if one bulb fails, the circuit is broken and all the bulbs go out.

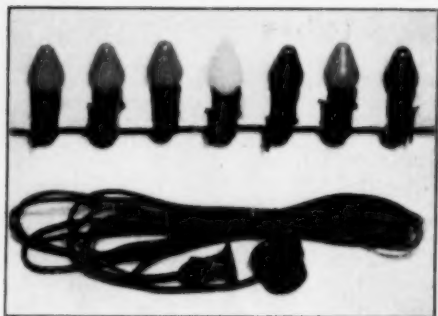
because of the lamp set causing fire or other injury, would be much impaired. Actually the identification ought to be on the lamp bases or cord themselves, so that the information cannot be lost during the life of the appliance. It is a good general principle, moreover, not to buy electrical appliances of any sort on which the manufacturer does not care to take responsibility by giving his complete name and address on every package, and wherever possible on the devices themselves.

The Christmas tree lights tested were either *series wired* or *multiple wired*. The multiple type has the advantage that, if one bulb of a string burns out, the others will remain lighted and the defective one can be easily found and replaced. Burned-out bulbs for series-wired sets are harder to find since all the lights go out when any single bulb fails. When buying replacement bulbs, it is necessary to buy the right type; those in the present study that were used in series-wired sets all had a smaller base than the bulbs used with multiple-wired sets. It is important to read directions carefully because harm can be done, for example, by adding too many lamps in additional sets to a multiple-wired set if the manufacturer's directions are not carefully observed.

Metal clips were provided to attach bulbs to trees on all the sets except the *Miller 8*, which used plastic strips that protected the sockets from tinsel contact as well as serving as fasteners, and the *Noma 110*, which used a bead strung through the strands of wire near each lamp base, forming an adjustable-sized loop of wire below the socket. Holding devices of some kind are helpful, but the *Gem 652* had no fasteners of any kind. "Add-on"



Bulb on right, with washer (shown at arrow), which serves to prevent entrance of tinsel or other conducting material to make contact with the socket's shell (the part into which the screw base of the lamp fits).



Noma Ad-A-Lite set before bulbs were attached to cord.

sockets were provided for all sets except the *Dealite* 808.

Two of the sets tested, the *Noma Ad-A-Lite* and the *On-A-Lite*, came equipped with seven lamps to be attached to a cord approximately 10½ and 12 feet long, respectively. The manufacturers of these lights cautioned against the use of more than 50 lamps on any multiple lamp assembly; too many lamps would overload some part of the wiring. Lamps may be inserted in these two sets most conveniently after the cord is on the tree; however, it is vital that, while the cord and sockets are being attached to the tree (without bulbs), the cord set should not be plugged into the power circuit. The *Ad-A-Lite* sockets were more difficult to attach to the cord than those for the *On-A-Lites* were. The lamp shells should always be on the same side of the cord, and the manufacturer did not make sufficient provision for determining this. The average housewife or handyman at home would very likely get the connections wrong occasionally. The effect of this would be to increase the hazard compared with an ordinary string of lamps; the tinsel could make contact between socket shells and thus cause a short circuit through the tinsel or other metal involved.

One set, *Glo-lite* 608, was equipped with *Bubble-Lites*. These lights introduce an element of motion as well as color into the lighting. As the bulb heats up, it causes liquid at the bottom of a sealed glass stem to heat, sending a continuous flow of bubbles to the top of the tube.

CR has examined the sets listed below for possible hazards in use, including inspection for provisions for preventing tinsel from making contact with the lamp base or metal inside the socket, presence of a sealing material around entrance of wires to socket, the bonding of the insulation to the conductor, and the ability of the insulation to withstand lamp temperatures. Six of the sets had washers around the lamp bases which functioned to close off the space between the lamp bulb and

the socket and prevent accidental contact with tinsel; on three of these, the washers were so loose that they could easily be lost. Wires on some of the lamp sets were not sealed at the entrance to the sockets. Where a set is unsatisfactory in these two respects, appropriate comment appears under the ratings or in the listings. On all the sets tested, the insulation was well bonded to the conductors, and the insulation withstood lamp temperatures satisfactorily.

Prices given in the listings are prices paid at the time of purchase, in late 1949. It is considered that most manufacturers of Christmas tree lights are likely to market the same sets this year as last; therefore CR felt that it was advisable to purchase the sets for test a year in advance in order to make it possible to have a report for its subscribers in time for the Christmas season in 1950. The Underwriters' Laboratories' Reexamination tag was found on all sets except the *Royalite* 207 K and the *Paramount* 301 K. The *On-A-Lite* and *Ad-A-Lite* were not approved as sets for reasons indicated at the close of the sixth paragraph of this article. It was noted on the boxes that the sockets were listed under Reexamination Service (or "approved" in the case of the *Ad-A-Lite*) by the Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc.

A. Recommended

On all the A-rated sets, washers on bulb bases protected sockets against contact with tinsel and were either attached to the string or fitted well enough not to be easily lost. Wires were sealed by appropriate means at the point of entrance to the socket.

Miller, No. 8 (Miller Electric Co., Pawtucket, R.I.) 89c.

Equipped with 8 colored GE lamps, wired in series. 1
Clemco, No. 707 (Clemco Inc., Hillside, N. J.) \$1.59.

Equipped with 7 colored GE lamps, wired in multiple. 2
Paramount, No. 1000 K (Raylite Electric Corp., 200 Lincoln Ave., Bronx 54, N. Y.) \$1.57. Equipped with 7 colored GE lamps, wired in multiple. The four wires entered the socket through separate openings (desirable). 2

C. Not Recommended

Glo-lite, No. 207 C-7 (Glo-lite Corp., 520 S. Canal, Chicago) \$1.95. Equipped with 7 colored GE lamps, wired in multiple. Washers on bulbs fitted loosely and could be easily lost. 2

Usalite, No. 707 (United States Electric Mfg. Co., 228 W. 14, New York City) \$1.55. String apparently made by Noma Electric Corp. Equipped with 7 colored GE lamps, wired in multiple. Washers on bulbs fitted loosely and thus could easily be lost. 2

Noma Ad-A-Lite, No. 3402 (Noma Electric Corp., 55 W. 13, N.Y.C.) \$2.32. Equipped with 7 colored GE lamps, wired in multiple. Underwriters' Laboratories' approval marked on plug only. Lamp sockets may be attached to cord at desired intervals (were somewhat hard to fasten). Washers on bulbs fitted loosely and could be easily lost. 3

On-A-Lite, No. X10 (On-A-Lite Corp., Portland, Oreg.) \$2.32. Equipped with 7 colored lamps, wired in multiple. Sockets and wires were approved by Underwriters' Laboratories separately. Spaces between lamps and sockets were small enough to avoid tinsel contact. Lamp sockets may be attached to cord at any desired intervals, and were easier to fasten than on *Noma Ad-A-Lite*. (See text, page 12, col. 1.) 3

The following two sets were considered less satisfactory than the above sets because wires were not sealed at point of entrance to sockets. On both these sets the socket size is such that ordinary series bulbs could be placed in them. Under those circumstances, there would be poor protection against tinsel contact.

Glo-lite 608 (Glo-lite Corp.) \$2.95. *Bubble-Lite* type. Equipped with 9 lamps of unknown manufacture, wired in series. Bulb-shaped plastic base structures around the lamps sealed sockets satisfactorily against tinsel contact. 3

Noma 133 (Noma Electric Corp.) \$3.72. Equipped with 8 "flame-tip" candle-like bulbs of unknown manufacture, wired in series. Plastic bases or "candleholders" of imitation candles protected shells from tinsel contact. 3

On the following C-rated lamp sets, the bulbs were not equipped with protective washers or protected from tinsel

contact. Wires were not sealed at point of entrance to the sockets, except as noted.

Dealite 808 (Dealite Co., 640 Broadway, Brooklyn, N.Y.) 89c. Equipped with 8 colored GE lamps, wired in series. Only set in this test on which no add-on plug was provided. 1

Glo-lite 186 C-8 (Apparently made by Noma Electric Corp.) 79c. Equipped with 8 colored GE lamps, wired in series. 1

Noma 110 (Noma Electric Corp.) 98c. Equipped with 8 colored Westinghouse lamps, wired in series. Lights are attachable to tree by wooden beads. 1

Paramount 301 K (Raylite Electric Corp.) \$1.12. Equipped with 8 colored GE lamps, wired in series. Did not have Underwriters' Laboratories' Reexamination Tag. 1

Santa Lites, No. 88 (Apparently manufactured by Zell Electric Mfg. Co., Inc., 466 Broome St., New York 13) 79c. Equipped with 8 colored lamps, wired in series. 1

Gem 652 (Gem Electric Mfg. Co., 233 37, Brooklyn, N. Y.) \$1.93. Equipped with 7 colored lamps (6 GE and 1 Westinghouse), wired in multiple. Wires were sealed at entrance to socket. No means provided for attaching lamps to tree. 2

Royalites 207 K (Royal Electric Co., Pawtucket, R.I.) \$1.59. Equipped with 7 colored GE lamps, wired in multiple. Wires were sealed at entrance to socket. Did not show Underwriters' Laboratories' approval. Sockets were connected in random polarities. 2

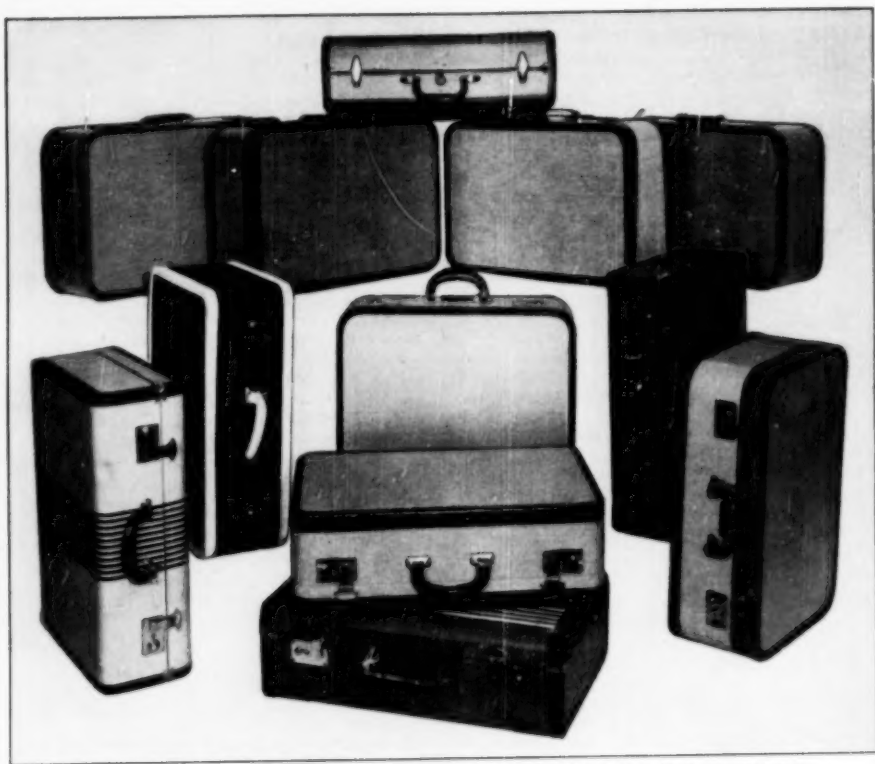
Off the Editor's Chest

(Continued from page 2)

the chief selling job has already been done. A simple announcement by a particular store that it carries such brands at such and such prices is usually considered sufficient. Information about the quality of brand products, performance, guarantees of performance, repair, and service life obviously will be the responsibility chiefly of the manufacturer, rather than of the store. From now on "Plain Old Gimbels" will in other words act not as a keen aggressive purchasing agent to secure good merchandise for its customers at the lowest possible price, but will mainly serve as the manufacturers' outlet in a busy section of New York City for nationally-known brands, for which the market has already been created (and on which prices have been fixed by the manufacturers, in many cases). As Business Week points out, this policy has the advantage that when goods are scarce customers will not be inclined to object to paying the higher price for the national brand.

What Gimbels does to improve the financial position of Gimbels is, of course, its own affair, but the public is concerned in any major decision taken by one of the largest department stores, and the step described is decidedly not in the direction of better or more economical service to consumers. Granted that there are many difficulties in the big

city department store field that need to be overcome in order to cut down on operating expenses so that stores may operate profitably, they will, we think, find that in the long run they will establish a firmer foundation of good will if they work more diligently at catering to discriminating buyers and in making conscious efforts by the use of laboratory facilities and engineering and scientific consultants and advisers to interpret to manufacturers the needs and desires of informed consumers, as to the design and quality of goods. It is, in our opinion, a mistake to assume that a long-run success in business can be built on merely acting as a place for display and merchandising of items involving sizable outlays. F. W. Woolworth and other variety chains have, of course, done an effective job for the consumer in the lower-priced field, but even the five-and-dime merchandisers aim to use initiative and independence in giving their customers good values for their money and do not put their major emphasis on appeal to customers through the prestige of nationally-advertised brands. We hope that the new Gimbels policy may not be a trend in department store management, toward getting out of the field of competitive buying and selling of goods for consumers, as certain of the big mail-order houses did some years ago.



In appearance, a bag that will give poor performance may be difficult to distinguish from a good one.

Traveling Light — A Study of "Airplane" Luggage

SELECTING a piece of luggage in a department store or luggage shop is like buying the proverbial "pig in a poke." You can't really see what you are getting, particularly if you are inclined to choose something in the lightweight canvas-covered "airplane" luggage line. This type of luggage has been found to be most popular. The term "airplane" luggage is commonly supposed to be derived from the fact that airplane travelers are limited in the amount of luggage (in terms of weight) that they are permitted to take with them and have, as a result, shown a preference for bags and suitcases of the canvas-covered variety that are rugged, yet light. One manufacturer, however, suggests that the term is intended to indicate

the plywood construction of such luggage, which is similar to that used in airplanes.

The Wood Handbook, prepared by Forest Products Laboratory, points out that the chief advantages of plywood, as compared with solid wood, are its approach to equalization of strength properties along the length and width of a panel, greater resistance to checking and splitting, and smaller changes in dimensions with changes in moisture content. It seems logical, therefore, to expect that plywood will provide a more durable foundation for covered luggage than the solid basswood which is sometimes used, but which is characterized by the Forest Products Laboratory as relatively low in strength.

The annual loss and damage claims paid for luggage by common carriers alone are reported to be more than one million dollars, according to a study made by the National Bureau of Standards. This figure does not take into account loss and damage, not to mention inconvenience, suffered by individual travelers who, for one reason or another, have not bothered to enter claims. The magnitude of the yearly loss was an important factor in bringing about a request from several trade associations to the Bureau of Standards to establish a "Commercial Standard" for luggage.

In order to obtain sufficient information to establish minimum performance requirements for hand luggage, the Bureau made an extensive survey of luggage found in the baggage rooms of railroad stations, inter-city bus terminals, and two airports. The types of damage that were encountered in the majority of cases fell into five classes: broken or bent hardware, broken handles, separation of frames or of covering from frames, scuffing and tearing of covering or binding, and damage by water or grease, etc.

Both scuffing of coverings and damage by water or grease and oil were found, as a rule, to be not so serious as to render the luggage in question useless. The studies of the Bureau of Standards were therefore concentrated on the other types of damage. It was found that overloading was a frequent source of failure, causing the handle to give way and adding greatly to the shock sustained by a falling case. External loads from other baggage stacked on a bag may also result in damage and likewise standing on a piece of luggage to reach something overhead. Luggage carelessly stacked was seen to fall from a height of six feet. The surface of a bag may be punctured by falling on a sharp object or by receiving a blow from the corner of another bag.

After extensive investigation and research, the Bureau of Standard's experts evolved several laboratory tests for luggage which they correlated with actual service tests, sending properly loaded luggage on 22 round trips from Washington, D. C., to various points around the country, covering some 12,000 miles. Three of the laboratory tests (drop, "handle fatigue," and static load) correlated very well with the results obtained in actual service.

The data obtained on the puncture tests were insufficient, in the opinion of the Bureau's experts, to justify a recommendation for inclusion of that method of test in a Commercial Standard at the present time. In the service test of luggage, the Bureau reported that only two severe punctures were

experienced, one on a bag that showed high resistance to the puncture tester, the other on a piece showing low puncture resistance on the same instrument.

CR's Test of 12 Bags

CR had 12 pieces of luggage subjected to standard test procedure for strength under a static load, fatigue test of the handles, and a repeated drop test, in line with the recommendations of the Bureau of Standards. The selection of the type of covering for the luggage to be tested was governed by the Bureau's observation that the material known as "fabric over chipboard (cardboard) or veneer" was in more frequent use by manufacturers than any other type of covering. The luggage was given an over-all examination for appearance, workmanship, and convenience features.

It will be noted in this report that the luggage which gave the best performance was high in price, selling as a rule for at least twice as much as a bag that was found to be *C. Not Recommended*. The workmanship, finish, and quality of the interior fabrics varied in character more or less with the price. The manufacture of luggage is still pretty much a small-scale operation and does not lend itself to mass production or assembly-line techniques which would make for lower prices with good quality.

One item of interest was that the keys of many of the bags were interchangeable. The *Samsonite* bag had a secure lock that was different from all others, but was supplied with only one key, a disadvantage in that it might entail great inconvenience and some expense in securing another if the first were lost.

In rating the bags, considerable importance was given to their performance in the dropping test in the belief that durability for most people is of primary importance, and that retention of appearance will play a subordinate role. There was no failure



After making due allowance for the advertising adjectives, this label furnishes the prospective purchaser with a considerable amount of useful information.

of the handle on any bag in the *A-Recommended* group.

Two brands, *Samsonite* and *J. C. Higgins*, carried informative labels which listed construction features and materials used. The same type of information was supplied in separate leaflets by *Amelia Earhart*, *Mendel*, and *Platt*. Little or no information was supplied with the luggage of *Hartmann*, *Wheary*, *Oshkosh*, Philadelphia Leather Goods Corp. (*White Star*), and *Dresner*.

Prices are those paid at the time of purchase of the various bags and do not include the 20 percent federal excise tax. Ratings are cr50.

A. Recommended

- Samsonite*, Man's Overnight Case, 21 in., Style 4622 (Shwayder Bros., Inc., Denver, Colo.) \$17.50. Tan vinyl plastic covering. 3-ply veneer sides. Frame, wood. 1
- Hartmann*, Overnight Case, 19 in., 1601W00 (Hartmann Co., Racine, Wis.) \$25. Tan and white fabric, bound with brown plastic. 2
- Wheary*, Overnight Case, 21 in., Style 200-3 (Wheary, Inc., Racine, Wis.) \$25. Brown and white fabric, bound with brown leather. 2
- Amelia Earhart*, Overnight Case, 21 in., Style No. 3900 (Amelia Earhart Luggage, Newark 5, N. J.) \$32.50. Brown and white canvas, bound with brown leather. Plywood box with plastic reinforced corners. 3
- Mendel*, Overnight Case, 21 in., Malta 6142 (Mendel-Drucker, Inc., Cincinnati) \$27.50. Black and white fabric, bound with black leather. 3
- Oshkosh*, Overnight Case, 21 in., Cheyenne 13150-A-21

(Oshkosh Luggage, Oshkosh, Wis.) \$29.50. Tan and white fabric, bound with tan leather. 3

B. Intermediate

- J. C. Higgins*, Distinctive Women's Luggage, 21 in., Weekend Case (Sears-Roebuck's Cat. No. 6-09162ME) \$14.50. Tan and white 2-ply canvas, bound with brown leather. 3-ply basswood sides. Frame, quarter-inch plywood. 1
- White Star*, 21 in. Case, KP7-HIP70 (Philadelphia Leather Goods Corp., Philadelphia) \$16.95. Green fabric, green leather bound. 1
- S. Dresner* Original Luggage, 21 in. Overnight Case, 78902 (S. Dresner & Son, Inc., Chicago 7) \$20.75. Green fabric, bound with rawhide. 2
- Platt* Aires, 21 in. Overnight Case, 2107 (Platt Luggage, Inc., Chicago) \$21.50. Tan and white canvas, striped in middle, brown leather bound. Basswood frame and basswood veneer top and bottom. 2

C. Not Recommended

- Indestructo*, 21 in. Overnight Case (Montgomery Ward's Cat. No. 60-8267 M) \$17.95. Tan and white fabric, tan leather bound. Performance was poor in the dropping test. 1
- Unbranded 21 in. Overnight Case, sold by large city department store. \$12.88. Represented as the lowest price at which it was possible to obtain a plywood case. Brown and white fabric, striped, brown leather bound, imitation alligator grain. Disintegrated rapidly with considerable damage to case in dropping test. Handle bent and came off one side. Bindings were light and scuffed readily. 1

Is the Quality of Motion Pictures Declining?

ONE of the reasons most frequently advanced for the present very serious decrease in motion picture attendance is that the general quality of pictures has declined to a marked extent. This assumption would seem to be refuted by an analysis of CR motion picture ratings. For example, in August 1950 the number of *A*, *B*, and *C* ratings per 100 votes was almost identical with those of the same month in 1946 (see table). Nor does the seasonal effect seem to change this relationship,

since the distribution of *A*, *B*, and *C* votes in April of both 1947 and 1950 was just about the same, and was also virtually the same as the August figures. It is true that the *A* ratings as given by a number of independent reviewers was pitifully small in comparison with *B*'s and *C*'s, and this may influence attendance; but there is nothing to indicate that the pictures are on the average any worse today than they were six months or three or four years ago.

Analysis of CR Motion Picture Ratings

Date	A's	B's	C's	Total	No. of Pictures	% A's	% B's	% C's
Aug. 1946	102	1097	922	2121	251	4.8	51.8	43.4
Aug. 1950	101	1162	956	2219	262	4.6	52.3	43.1
Apr. 1947	101	1016	943	2060	251	4.9	49.3	45.8
Apr. 1950	121	1093	964	2178	256	5.5	50.2	44.3

Note: The percentage of *A*'s, *B*'s, and *C*'s is the same as the number of ratings in the three groups, per hundred evaluated.

Seven Vacuum Cleaners

THE consumer when he sees an appliance which differs significantly in appearance from a preceding model of the same appliance is likely to assume that the later model will also comprise improvements in working characteristics or efficiency. Actually, the changes in outward appearance do not necessarily reflect improvements in quality or performance and, along with changes in model numbers, appearance changes are made primarily to permit easier selling. By reference to the new number and the appliance's sales features, the salesman can point out to the uninformed layman how badly out of date and obsolete is the appliance which he now possesses and how much he will presumably gain by buying a new one.

The vacuum cleaners reported on were in each case new models of cleaners which had been tested previously by CR during the past four years. An examination of the cleaners indicated that, contrary to buyers' expectations, the newer models did not include major design improvements but merely reflected changes in nozzle shapes and construction, for example, and other minor differences. The majority of the cleaners, however, showed considerable improvements in dirt-removing ability as compared with their performance in earlier tests. The greatest improvement was in the *Westinghouse, Model T-4*, as compared with its predecessor, *Model T1-47* (tested and reported in *CONSUMERS' RESEARCH BULLETIN*, December 1948, and listed as *C. Not Recommended*). The *T1-47* was equipped with a plastic rug-cleaning nozzle of poor design



Eureka 700

which was deemed to be the cause of the poor and highly variable results obtained with that cleaner. The nozzle of the new *Model T-4* is constructed of aluminum and is of more conventional design; there is a simple foot control for bringing the lint-catcher into contact with the rug being cleaned. The motors on the two machines were similar. The new *Lewyt, Model 44*, is an example of an "improved" later model which did not give as good performance as its predecessor did in the 1948 tests. From the standpoint of the vacuum cleaner user, the conclusion must be drawn that there is no means available to him short of taking advantage of the results of technical tests, such as those which have been made by CR, to decide whether he should or should not buy a new cleaner. He may get a better one, or he may get one which is a good deal worse, depending upon the make and design, and not particularly upon whether it is a new model or an old one. It should be borne in mind that many a used cleaner can be made almost as good as new, and, if of the right model, can be made not far from as good as the better cleaners now being offered, by having an overhauling job done in the shop of one of the competent vacuum cleaner service or rebuilding agencies.

Most of the "tank" or horizontal cleaners now incorporate a brush or milled comb-like strip in the nozzle; this accessory is installed to meet an objection to cleaners of this general kind by improving their ability to pick up lint and hairs. Comparison of two tank cleaners and an upright cleaner indicated that a cleaner of the upright type is to be preferred for cleaning lint (cotton and wool) from a broadloom rug; both of the tank cleaners were successful in picking up the lint only after several passes of the wand.



Filter Queen 350

[illegible]

Summary of Results

2. Electrical Insulation

[illegible][illegible]

A small part of the recorded observations which are taken during tests on vacuum cleaners. The full report on one cleaner may run to as much as 10 typewritten pages, including tables and graphs.

Each kind of cleaner has its own particular advantages with regard to home cleaning. The upright with revolving brush, among other advantages, will leave most rug surfaces with a desirable smoothed, even appearance; the nozzle of the tank cleaner tends to leave a rug having a deep nap with a somewhat irregular or mottled look. One of the definite advantages of the tank cleaner is the small headroom required at the point where the nozzle is attached which permits cleaning closer to furniture and other household furnishings. The tank cleaner is also more adaptable to the use of attachments. In actual effectiveness in removing dirt the two cleaners are pretty much on a par, and CR's tests did not indicate any reason for preferring one kind over the other, except the homemaker's own preference. The housewife may, therefore, make her choice of type on the basis of her particular needs, and her liking for one or the other. (Apart from the matter of effectiveness in cleaning — which the housewife is, of course, in no position to determine except in a very inexact and uncertain fashion — housewives have strong opinions on this matter; some insist that only the tank cleaner is worth considering, and others feel equally strongly in favor of the upright.)

CR's test procedures in the present series of tests were essentially the same as those which have been used for the past four years. Among the tests

included, besides effectiveness in removing dirt from the rug, were measurements of electrical leakage, proof-voltage (electrical breakdown test), insulation resistance, electrical power input, and radio interference. In addition, an engineering examination was made.

Comparative dirt-removing ability is measured by operating a cleaner over a measured section of carpeting which has been soiled previously with a synthetic dirt mixture. Three kinds of rugs are used having low, medium, and high pile. Tests are run on each rug with the dust collector clean and also partially filled with the dirt collected during the previous test. The amount of dirt picked up is determined at stated intervals during each test, necessitating 36 separate weighings of the amount of dirt collected for each cleaner. These results are then averaged to give the final over-all figure for dirt-removing ability.

In the listings, rated watts input is followed in parentheses by the actual watts input as measured. Each cleaner had been inspected by the Underwriters' Laboratories and carried its label. The *Royal 279* was the only cleaner which failed the proof-voltage test. The measured distance from the floor to the top of the nozzle is included in the listings to indicate the minimum height under which the cleaner may be used, as when cleaning under furniture, beds, and similar items. The prices given were those paid at the time of test.

A. Recommended

Westinghouse, Model T-4 (Westinghouse Electric Corp., Mansfield, Ohio) \$75 complete with attachment. Tank cleaner with 2 steel-rod runners. Power input, 530 watts (655, high). Weight, 19.0 lb. Dirt-removing ability, very good. Used disposable paper bag inserted in cloth bag as dirt collector (a good design) and could also be used with the cloth bag only, if desired. A comb-like metal section (*Thread Magnet*) was incorporated in the cleaning nozzle for removing lint from rugs. The *Thread Magnet* was easily positioned by a foot control.



Westinghouse T-4

a decided advantage (in most tank-cleaner nozzles, the comparable feature must be adjusted by the hand). Nozzle had rubber bumper guard. Motor bearings were claimed to be lubricated for their life. Cord length, 19.4 ft. Height from floor to top of nozzle, 2.6 in. On-off switch located on cleaner housing and foot operated. Caused moderate amount of radio interference. Nozzle and wand connections had well designed locking devices. Leakage current (a measure of extent of shock hazard), negligible. 2

Eureka, Model 700 (Eureka Williams Corp., Bloomington, Ill.) \$80 complete with attachments. Tank cleaner with 2 steel-rod runners. Power input, 575 watts (632). Weight, 21.0 lb. Dirt-removing ability, very good. Used disposable paper bag as dirt collector — a good arrangement — and could also be used without this feature by using cloth bag only, if desired. Had brush in nozzle; brush was easily brought into position by hand adjustment for removing lint from rugs. No bumper guard on nozzle (an undesirable omission). Lubrication of motor bearings required every 2 to 3 years. Cord length, 19.2 ft. Height from floor to top of nozzle, 2.3 in. (lowest of cleaners tested). Switch located on cleaner housing and foot operated. Caused negligible amount of radio interference, less than any other cleaner tested. Friction fit of nozzle and wand sections could result in binding and consequent annoyance in their disassembly. While in use, cleaner was slightly noisier than others tested, but noise was not considered objectionable. Leakage current, negligible. 3

Filter Queen, Model 350 (Health-Mor, Inc., 203 N. Wabash



Royal 279



Hoover 62

Ave., Chicago) \$95 including attachments. Tank cleaner. Power input, 550 watts (530). Weight, 26.0 lb.; above average. Dirt-removing ability, very good. Used a disposable paper filter, but dust and dirt were collected in tank section of cleaner. Had brush, which was adjusted by hand, on nozzle for improving lint pickup. No bumper guard on nozzle, undesirable. Cord length, 19.3 ft. Height from floor to top of nozzle, 3.2 in. On-off switch located on cleaner, foot controlled. Caused moderate amount of radio interference. Tank had flat bottom without runners, but a 4-wheel carriage was supplied in which the cleaner could be set; this made movement of the cleaner over the floor very easy. Leakage current, negligible. 3

Hoover, Model 62 (The Hoover Co., North Canton, Ohio) \$100. Revolving brush, upright. Power input, 420 watts (386). Weight, 19.5 lb. Dirt-removing ability, excellent. Used a disposable paper-bag filter located within usual cloth dirt-collector bag. Rug damage with cleaner in stationary position, very slight. Belt replacement considered relatively easy to accomplish. Lubrication of motor bearing required every 1 to 3 years. Two-position lever to adjust nozzle height to rug-pile length. Handle usable from horizontal to vertical position; locking adjustment easily operated by foot. Had rubber bumper guard. Cord length, 20.7 ft. Height from floor to top of motor housing, 6.5 in. Toggle switch in handle, well located and easy to operate. Attachments connected to side of cleaner housing. Excessive radio interference. Leakage current, negligible. 3

Lewyt, Model 44 (Lewyt Corp., 60 Broadway, Brooklyn



Lewyt 44



Rexair C

11, N.Y.) \$80 complete with attachments. Tank cleaner. Power input, 575 watts (540). Weight, 22.0 lb. Dirt-removing ability, average, but not as good as *Lewyt, Model 40*, reported in May 1948 Bulletin. The difference was due, possibly, to the inclusion of a metal bar in the nozzle for lint pickup which was so placed that it shifted position on each forward and backward motion of the nozzle. This shifting made it impossible for the nozzle to make continuous contact with the rug. Used a disposable paper filter as separator, but dust and dirt were collected in tank section of cleaner. Had brush, adjusted by hand, in nozzle for improving lint pickup. Motor bearings claimed to be lubricated for life of cleaner. Had bumper guard on nozzle. Cord length, 20.0 ft. Height from floor to top of nozzle, 3.5 in. On-off switch located on cleaner and foot operated. Motor caused moderate amount of radio interference. Leakage current, negligible. 3

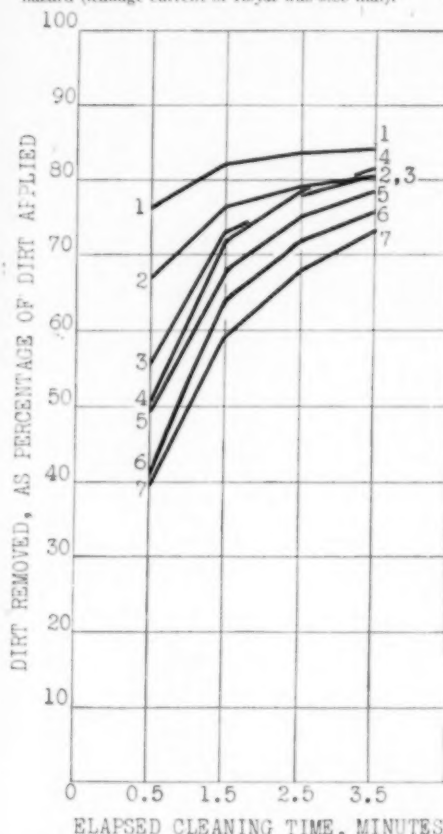
B. Intermediate

Rexair, Model C (Rexair Div., Martin-Parry Corp., Toledo 1, Ohio) \$100 complete with attachments. Tank cleaner with flat circular base. Power input, 655 (641). Weight, 23.0 lb. Dirt-removing ability, average. Used container partly filled with water in base of housing as dirt catcher. Had hand-adjusted brush in nozzle for lint pickup. Nozzle had rubber bumper guard. Motor bearings were claimed to be lubricated for life. Cord length, 17.7 ft., which is relatively short. Height from floor to top of nozzle, 3.2 in. On-off switch was located on cleaner housing and hand operated. Motor caused excessive amount of radio interference. Swivel connection between nozzle and wand was not positive; nozzle could fall off while cleaner was being carried, a disadvantage. Some shock hazard present; leakage current, 1.0 ma. 3

C. Not Recommended

Royal, Model 279 (The P. A. Geier Co., 540 E. 105 St., Cleveland 8) \$70. Revolving brush, upright. Power input, 300 watts (352). Weight, 14.0 lb., desirably low.

Dirt-removing ability, very good. Rug damage with cleaner in stationary position, very slight. Belt replacement considered relatively easy. Revolving brush adjustable to compensate for wear. Lubrication of motor bearings required every 15 to 18 months. Had excellent method for adjusting nozzle height to length of rug pile. Handle usable from horizontal to vertical position. Cord length, 21.2 ft. Height from floor to top of motor housing, 7.7 in., greater than average. On-off toggle switch on handle, well located and easy to operate. Caused only moderate amount of radio interference. The *Royal* failed in proof-voltage test. This and the *Rexair, Model C*, were the only vacuum cleaners in the group tested which showed significant degrees of shock hazard (leakage current of *Royal* was 0.85 ma.). 2



Graph showing dirt-removing ability as a function of cleaning time.

(1) Hoover 62; (2) Royal 279; (3) Westinghouse T-4; (4) Eureka 700; (5) Filter Queen 330; (6) Lewyt 44; (7) Rexair C.

The comments in the listings regarding dirt-removing ability take into account the dirt removed at $\frac{1}{2}$ minute and at 3.5 minutes. The fact that the particular cleaners in this test showed from average to excellent dirt-removing ability does not, of course, mean that all cleaners are now comparably good in this respect.

CAN OPENERS

WITH today's markets offering everything from caviar to the old stand-by, baked beans, in convenient tins, the average housewife finds herself using more and more of a variety of canned foods than formerly. The growth of consumption of canned foods has offered the homemaker advantages of convenience, speed, and often economy, in a readily available, easy to store long-lasting package. (Serious questions have been raised by nutritionists and others on the desirability of using considerable amounts of canned or otherwise preserved foods in the diet. This, of course, is a question that cannot be developed properly in a brief discussion of the topic of can openers, but consumers should be aware that medical experts regard the increased use of ready prepared and preserved foods as having disadvantages from the nutritional standpoint.)

The housewife naturally wants to know what can opener at a moderate cost will do a good job. A good can opener should cut cans cleanly and evenly, leaving no sharp edges that might cause a cut or serious injury to the hand, and it should moreover cut off and drop a minimum of small metal particles in the food — metal particles of the kind that are cut, scraped, or abraded from the metal of the can when the can opener is of a poor design.

A can opener should be easy to keep clean, and

should either be easy to sharpen or provide quick and convenient means for replacement of the cutting edge at small cost. Cutting wheels of the *Flint*, *Zim*, and *Regina* openers, for example, cost from 30 to 35 cents each.

The wide variety of can openers offered often leads the consumer to feel that he can safely buy "just any can opener" and feel satisfied that he has the tool to do the job. In reality, most of the can openers on the market are relatively ineffective, cut poorly, or involve unnecessary effort to operate, and a considerable percentage will deposit bits of metal in the food. Some will work well for a year or so and then fail because of sticking of the cutting wheel or because the wheel has become dull or its edge has chipped.

CR's test included 17 different can openers which manifested a wide range of performance, and which were priced over a range of 15 cents to \$4. In this test there was a degree of correlation between price and usefulness in that the better can openers were all in the relatively high-priced class. It can be noted, however, that one of the *A-Recommended* can openers sold at \$1.50, whereas there were several can openers at \$2 and one at \$1.50 which fell in the *C-Not Recommended* group. All the cheaper can openers, such as those sold in

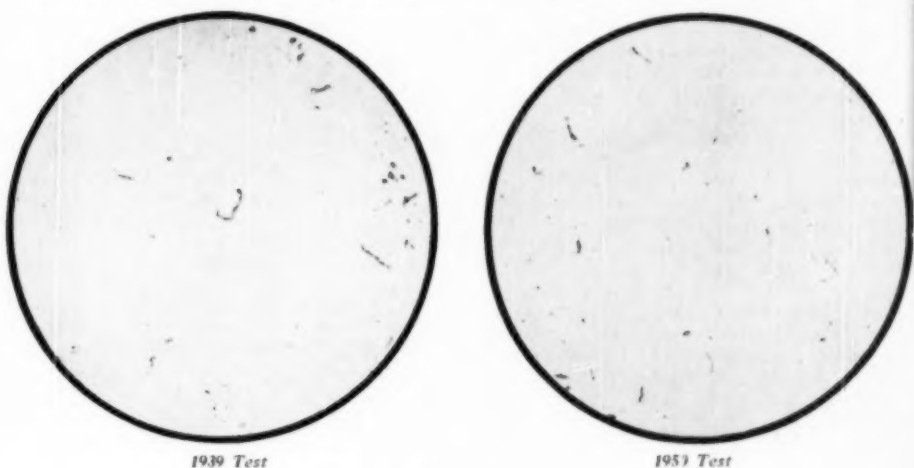


Figure 1

Reproduction showing the bits of metal deposited by two *Miracle* can openers on pieces of waxed paper placed at the bottom of cans. The picture at the left shows metal deposited inside a can opened with *Miracle* opener tested in 1939. The picture at the right shows results, which are similar to those with a can opener of the same make bought 10 years later (though the bits of metal happened in the later instance not to be as large or as numerous). This can opener was almost identical with the opener tested in 1939, which also carried the name *Miracle* and the initials *A & J*. (Picture is about 9/10 actual size.)

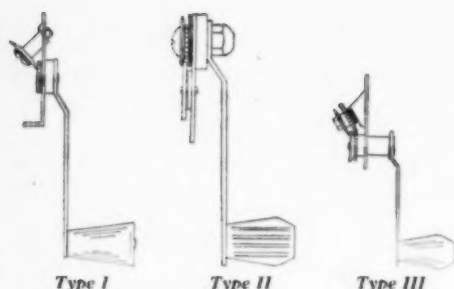


Figure 2

the five-and-ten-cent stores, were found to be uniformly poor in performance.

The method of test was to cut open one end of 10 round metal cans of the same size, with each can opener. (Round cans were used because they are by far the most common.) The other end of the cans, which was already open, was covered during the test with a piece of paper heavily coated with wax, to receive any shavings or bits of metal that might fall as the can opener was used. After the lid had been fully removed, each piece of wax paper was heated and cooled and the pieces of metal adhering to them were thus permanently held in position. (See illustrations showing metal dropped into can.) The number of pieces adhering were counted; relatively large amounts of metal were, of course, considered undesirable. Long or needle-like pieces were considered especially disadvantageous.

In addition to the matter of bits of metal which would drop in the can with the use of the opener, the devices were also judged on ease of operation, rigidity, and any "stalling" during the cutting operation.

The can openers tested were of three different types (see Figure 2). Type I, the most common, has a cutting wheel which revolves freely, or a stationary cutting knife, and the operating handle is directly connected to a toothed wheel which forces the can to rotate against the cutting edge. All Type I openers listed had a cutting wheel except as noted. Type II has a cutting wheel and toothed driving wheel which are moved, together, directly by the action of the operating handle. Type III has an action whereby both the cutting wheel and the driving wheel are geared together and are turned by the action of the handle. The one Type III opener tested was geared a little differently from the one shown, and the driving wheel did not have teeth.

A. Recommended

Flint Precision, No. 889 (Ekco Products Co., 1947 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago 39) \$1.50. Type I. Deposited very few metal particles. Easy to use. Smooth cutting. 2

Can-O-Mat, Jr., Cat. No. 150 (Rival Mfg. Co., Fifteenth and Wabash Ave., Kansas City, Mo.) \$4. Type I. Wall-mounted. Deposited least metal particles of can openers tested. Easy to operate, but did not cut lids completely in all cases. 3

Dazey De Luxe, Model 80 (Dazey Corp., Warne and Carter Sts., St. Louis) \$2.95. Type I. Wall-mounted. Deposited only moderate number of small particles, no long pieces. Some play in mounting. Easy to use. Smooth cutting. 3

Flint Precision, No. 891 (Ekco Products Co.) \$3.95. Type I. Wall-mounted. Cutting elements same as in *Flint Precision, No. 889*, which was not wall-mounted. Very little metal deposited. Easy to use. Smooth cutting. 3

Juice-King, Model CO-10 (National Die Casting Co., Touhy Ave., at Lawndale, Chicago 45) \$3.95. Type I. Wall-mounted. Moderate number of metal pieces deposited; some were long ones. Easy to use. Smooth cutting. 3

Zim De Luxe (Zim Mfg. Co., 3037-47 Carroll Ave., Chicago 12) \$3.45. Type I. Wall-mounted. Deposited relatively small number of metal particles, and, of these, very few were long ones. Rather difficult to operate, but can was cut smoothly. This unit included "alligator" type lid wrench and jar top opener. 3

B. Intermediate

Maid of Honor (Sears-Roebuck's Cat. No. 11-4040) \$2.19. Type I. Wall-mounted. Deposited fairly large number of metal particles, but few were long. Easy to operate. Smooth cutting. 2

Regina De Luxe Smoothcut (The Regina Corp., Rahway, N. J.) \$3. Type I. Wall-mounted. Similar to *Maid of Honor*. Remarks under *Maid of Honor* apply. 3

C. Not Recommended

Edlund, Jr., No. 5 (Edlund Co., Burlington, Vt.) 75c. Type I with stationary cutting knife. Deposited a substantial number of fine particles, and a few long pieces. Difficult to operate. 1

Miracle (Distributed by various 10-cent stores; Mr. identified only as "A & J") 19c. Type I with stationary cutting knife. Deposited large numbers of both small and longer metal particles (see illustration). Somewhat difficult to operate. Left projecting sharp edges on the can at end of some cuts. 1

Safety Roll, Jr., 15c; Safety Roll, Jr., No. 25, 89c; Utility, No. 174, 35c (All three manufactured by Vaughan Novelty Mfg. Co., Inc., 3211 W. Carroll Ave., Chicago 24) All Type I with stationary cutting knife. All three deposited large numbers of metal particles. Ease of operation, fair to poor. 1

Rival Standard, Cat. No. O C 741 (Rival Mfg. Co.) \$1.50. Type II. Wall-mounted. Deposited moderate number of metal particles, with a few long pieces. Difficult to operate. Stuck or stalled when seam of can was reached, in some cases. 2

Roto, No. R-5 (Distributed by W. T. Grant Co. stores) \$1.98. Type I. Wall-mounted. Deposited moderately large number of metal particles, including many long pieces. Easy to operate, but cut only 2 out of 10 cans completely. Similar to *Juice-King* in principle of operation. 2

Swing-A-Way "Pacemaker," Model 117 (Steel Products Mfg. Co., 4100 Beck Ave., St. Louis) \$1.98. Type I. Wall-mounted. Deposited large amounts of metal particles, particularly long pieces. Opener not rigid in mounting. Left projecting sharp edges on can and cut only 3 out of 10 cans completely. 2

Westco, Model 65 (The Turner & Seymour Mfg. Co., 100

Lawton St., Torrington, Conn.) \$2. Type III. Deposited small amount of metal particles, but a relatively large proportion of these were long. Very difficult to start, but fairly easy to use after starting. Left dangerously jagged points at end of cut, otherwise would have been rated B, Intermediate. 2

Tire Gauges

TIRES should be checked each week to maintain the proper inflation pressure recommended by the manufacturer. Pressure should be set (and checked) when the tire is cold. During normal driving, air pressure in a tire will often increase considerably, because road friction heats the tire, and the air contained in it. For this reason, air should never be "bled" from a tire unless it is known that the tire was not inflated correctly when it was cold. No compensation is necessary for the slight pressure changes that result from short-time variations in atmospheric temperature.

When underinflated, the tire flattens out, bulges at the sides, and rides on the shoulders; when overinflated the tire rides on the crown. If automobile tires are underinflated 5 pounds, their life is reduced about 30 percent (due to uneven tread wear, and the excessive heat in the tire carcass produced by added flexing and road friction). Overinflation causes uneven wear also, and a further disadvantage is in the tire's decreased ability to absorb shocks.

A pocket air-pressure gauge is a convenient and practical instrument to use for the weekly tire check. A gauge must be strong, compact, resistant to corrosion, and reasonably protected from dirt and dust, and it should be accurate within one or two percent at the tire inflation range. The scale should be *easily readable* and convenient to use under difficult conditions of light and position, and should not extend to values higher than twice the inflation pressure of the tires used.

In CR's tests, the effect of dirt upon the gauge accuracy was determined by placing the gauges in a rectangular one gallon tin container which was half filled with vacuum cleaner dirt and then revolved rapidly. Errors introduced as a result of this test are noted in the listings, when significant. The accuracy tests included determinations of errors when the gauge was held in various positions, up, down, and horizontal. Tests made to show the effect of improper seating of the gauge showed that



Schrader Tire Pressure Gauge 7750T. The G.M. Co. 25. Tru-Flate Pencil Tire Gauge "701," Allstate Cat. No. 1076, and Supreme 55 were of similar appearance ("pencil type").

large minus errors could be secured when the gauge was not held firmly against the exposed face of the valve.

Each gauge tested was equipped with a projecting pin for releasing air from the tire by depressing the valve stem. Ratings are based primarily upon accuracy, and readability of the pressure scale.

A. Recommended

G.M. Co. Tire Gauge (Montgomery Ward's Cat. No. 61-5684) 89c. Triangular scale 5 to 50 lb. per sq. in.; readability and accuracy, good. 1

G.M. Co. Tire Gauge, No. 25 (G.M. Co. Mfg. Co., Long Island City, N.Y.) \$1.29. Triangular scale 5 to 50 lb. per sq. in.; readability and accuracy, good. 3

B. Intermediate

Allstate Air Pressure Gauge (Sears-Roebuck's Cat. No. 1076) 89c. Triangular scale 5 to 50 lb. per sq. in.; readability, very good. Showed large errors after the dust exposure test. 1

Supreme Tire Gauge, No. 55 (G.M. Co. Mfg. Co.) 85c. Flat scale 5 to 51 lb. per sq. in.; readability, fair; accuracy, variable, fairly good. 1

C. Not Recommended

Tru-Flate Pencil Tire Gauge "701" (Druge Bros. Mfg. Co., 92 Ave. and G St., Oakland, Calif.) \$1. Flat scale reads 10 to 120 lb. per sq. in.; range of scale for automobile tires too short; readability, good; accuracy, poor, error much too large at 20 and 28 lb. per sq. in. 2

Schrader Passenger Tire Gauge, No. 5050 (A. Schrader's Son) \$1.49. Flat scale, too short (1½ in.), reads 10 to 50 lb. per sq. in.; readability, fair; accuracy at 28, 32, and 40 lb. per sq. in., poor. 3

Schrader Tire Pressure Gauge, No. 7750T (A. Schrader's Son, Div. of Scovill Mfg. Co., Inc., 471 Vanderbilt Ave., Brooklyn 17, N.Y.) \$1.50. Square scale 4 to 50 lb. per sq. in.; readability, fair; accuracy, good under normal use, but had large errors after dust test at 4 of the 5 check points. 3



Schrader Passenger Tire Gauge 5050

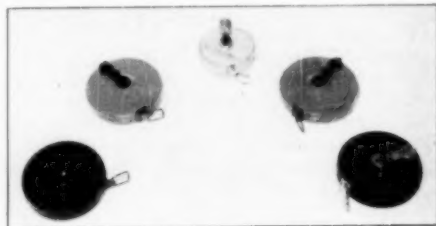
Woven Fabric Measuring Tapes

Editor's Note: Ordinarily the question of the accuracy of tapes made of fabric would not seem important, but recently an erroneously marked tape which caused a serious error got into the news in a big way. A number of owners of some new buildings in Chicago are suing the masonry contractor for \$20,000, and the contractor is trying to pass along this unexpected cost by suing the variety-chain store from whom the tape was bought and the manufacturer of the tape. The tape was supposed to be 25 feet long but actually spanned 26 feet. The difficulties arose because, although the new buildings built with the incorrect tape looked all right, they violated building codes by exceeding the permitted size and, of course, cost the contractor additional sums for extra labor and material used in construction.

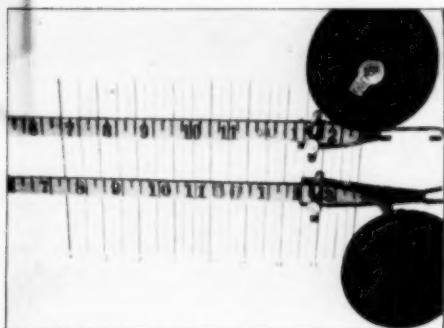
An error due to the use of an incorrect tape could easily cause other complications, such as permitting a building to fall in part on the property of another owner; this might easily cause great expense for demolition and rebuilding or purchase of additional land, when possible. It will be seen, therefore, that errors in measurement that might arise from use of a faulty tape are not necessarily a trivial matter.

FABRIC TAPES must be handled and stored carefully to protect them from dampness and damage by mildew. (Humidity affects the accuracy of fabric or woven tape to such an extent as to make this kind of tape unreliable for any close measurements.)

Two manufacturers of woven tapes warn against placing too much confidence in their accuracy and reliability for close work. One advises also that fabric tapes be compared occasionally with a steel tape so that reasonably accurate results may be obtained. The user must bear in mind that a change of several pounds in the applied tension on a fabric tape may, in many cases, introduce a substantial error. The error in each case was found to be the greatest when the tape was used at full



Four 50-ft. and one 25-ft. cloth tapes. Left to right: Lufkin Universal No. 733, Montgomery Ward's Cat. No. 84-4067, Walco's Mechanic's Pal (25 ft.), Sears-Roebuck's Cat. No. 9-3904, and Walco.



Two 50-ft. cloth tapes, Walco (top) and Lufkin Universal (under 5-lb. tension) showing errors in length. The Walco was long by almost $1\frac{1}{2}$ in., while the Lufkin was long by almost $5\frac{1}{8}$ in. Under 1-lb. tension, the Walco was short by $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. (a change of 3 in.), while the Lufkin was short by $5\frac{1}{8}$ in. (a change of $1\frac{1}{4}$ in.).

length. Errors at intermediate points on the tape were in proportion, approximately. For work requiring any degree of precision, of course, one should always use a steel tape; it is worthy of note that steel tapes can be bought at prices from \$5 upwards, or only $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 times the price of the much less accurate and reliable 50-foot cloth tapes. It is of interest to note that the Walco tapes were marked "Not legal in trade."

The test of four brands of woven fabric tapes, a total of 10 samples (3 Lufkin, 1 Sears, 5 Walco, 1 Ward's), showed that the errors of the tapes ranged from small to very large. Although federal specifications permit a 2-inch error in length for every hundred feet of tape when a 2-pound pull is applied to the tape, only 5 of the 10 tapes were within this liberal tolerance. Tape users will be interested to note that federal specifications permit a 9-inch error in length per hundred feet of tape when the relative humidity is increased from 30 percent to 95 percent at room temperature.

The errors of the tapes were determined by comparing them with a certified steel tape which had

been checked by the National Bureau of Standards. During the test a 2-pound load was applied on the fabric tapes and a 10-pound load on the standard (the 10-pound load is standard practice in using steel tapes). In this test the 50-foot fabric tapes were short by as little as $\frac{1}{8}$ inch for a *Lufkin* tape to as much as $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch for a *Walsco*. However, when the pull on the *Lufkin* fabric tape was increased to 10 pounds and then reduced to 2 pounds, the tape retained an increase in length of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch; under the same treatment, the 50-foot *Walsco* tape retained an increase in length of 3 inches. In a steel tape, the error from this type of variation in pull would be so small as to be negligible for ordinary use of the tape. (Changing the pull from 2 pounds to 10 pounds on the steel tape increased its length by less than 0.1 inch.) Since the length of a fabric tape changes as the pull on it varies, the user cannot be sure of the accuracy of measurements made with a fabric tape being closer than several inches in 50 feet, normally.

Because CR believes people who use 25- and 50-foot tapes would wish, on most occasions, to measure a good deal more closely than would be possible with most fabric tapes, none of the tapes tested was given an *A-Recommended* rating. Errors shown in the listings are those that were determined with a standard 2-pound tension on the tapes. Ratings are cr50.

Fabric Tapes

B. Intermediate

Lufkin Universal, No. 733 (The Lufkin Rule Co., Saginaw, Mich.) 3 samples purchased, priced at \$2, \$2.20, and \$2.25. Tape, in enameled metal case, yellow, with $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. divisions in black, foot markings in red; pulled out to a length of 50 ft. 5 in. Was easy to pull out of case and to rewind. Clearness of markings and numerals, fair. Accuracy, relatively good; error in 50 ft., about $\frac{1}{4}$ in.

Montgomery Ward's Cat. No. 84-4067. \$1.79, plus postage. Similar to *Lufkin Universal*, No. 733. Accuracy, fair; error in 50 ft., about $\frac{7}{8}$ in.

Sears-Roebuck's Cat. No. 9-3904. \$1.79, plus postage; \$1.95 in Sears' retail store. Similar to *Lufkin Universal*, No. 733. Accuracy, relatively good; error in 50 ft., about $\frac{1}{4}$ in.

C. Not Recommended

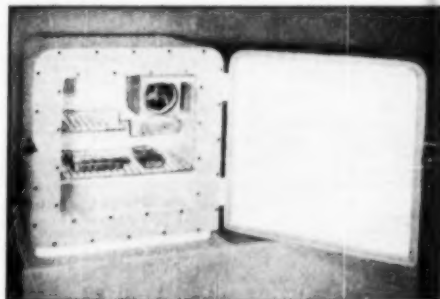
Walsco Mechanic's Pal (Waterbury Lock & Specialty Co., Milford, Conn.) 3 samples purchased; 29c, 49c, and 69c. Tape, in enameled metal case (also in black crackle finish metal case), yellow, with $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. divisions in black, foot markings in red; pulled out to 25 ft. 3 in. Was easy to pull out and to rewind. Clearness of markings and numerals, poor. Accuracy, poor; error in 25 ft., about 1 in.

Walsco (Waterbury Lock & Specialty Co.) 2 samples purchased; 79c and 98c. Similar to *Walsco Mechanic's Pal* except pulled out to 50 ft. 3 in. Tape was difficult to pull out of case and to rewind. Accuracy, poor; error in 50 ft., about $1\frac{1}{4}$ in.

The Astral Refrigerator

FOR A FAMILY living in a trailer, where space is of the utmost importance, or a single person living in an apartment permitting only a minimum amount of space for a refrigerator, the *Astral* refrigerator may appear to be a satisfactory solution to their problem. The refrigerator works on the absorption principle, similar to that of the *Electrolux* gas refrigerator, but uses an electric heating element instead of a gas flame. Having no moving parts, or even a flame, the appliance was completely silent in operation; it may give long service, depending on the life of the thermostat and the heating element.

The refrigerator, however, was grossly inefficient in comparison with electric refrigerators of the usual type, for it cost about 16 times as much to operate, per cubic foot of food storage space, as the best of the standard refrigerators recently tested by CR. The *Astral* was also greatly deficient in refrigerating capacity, for it did not keep the inside of the box at a temperature low enough for the



Astral Refrigerator

safe storage of food when the room temperature exceeded 90°F. The manufacturer's claim that the box was efficient would appear to be wholly incorrect. (At the conclusion of the tests, it was found that the finned part of the freezing chamber

was not properly located, having apparently jarred out of place during shipment. This part was intended to be held in place by a small screw tightened against the thermostat tube, judged to be poor design detail from the engineering standpoint. While it is believed unlikely the findings would have been affected to any great degree by this displacement of the freezing chamber, check tests are being made and the later findings will be reported when available.)

There are a number of other very small electric refrigerators. None but the *Astral* has been tested, so far, by CR.

C. Not Recommended (tentative)

Astral, Model AI/T (Astral Industries, Inc., Rockleigh, N.J.) \$129.50. For 110-115 volts ac-dc. Could also be operated on lower voltages, and 220 volts by changing to a different heating element, at \$2.50 each. Rated watts, 95 (actual, 93). Outside dimensions: 22 in. high, 22½ in. wide, 24 in. deep. Total rated capacity not stated (actual, 1.5 cu. ft.). Total shelf area, 3.3 sq. ft. Weight, 63½ lb. Freezing chamber, very small (0.04 cu. ft.), located in top right-hand corner, had a storage

space in the form of a circular sleeve 3¼ in. in diameter by 7¼ in. long. Had 2 aluminum ice-cube trays to make 20 small (1 in. x 1 in. x ¾ in.) ice cubes (about ½ lb.). Ice-cube trays had to be placed on top of each other, and left no room for other food to be stored in freezing chamber. Transparent plastic drip tray. In pull-down test from 110°F, lowest temperature obtained after 12 hours was 66.5°F (unsatisfactory). At room temperatures of 110° and 90°F, refrigerator operated continuously. At 90°F, average temperature in cabinet was 43.1°F (satisfactory). Cost of operation was very high, approximately \$2.35 per month or \$1.60 per cu. ft. of storage, which is about 16 times as expensive to operate, per cu. ft. of contents, as the best 9-cu.-ft. refrigerator reported in the September 1950 Bulletin. (At 70°F room temperature, with average temperature inside cabinet of 36°F, refrigerator ran approximately 70% of the time, with a monthly operating cost of \$1.65, or \$1.15 per cu. ft. per month.) For those who require only a small amount of refrigerated space and to whom cost of electricity for operation is not important, the *Astral* would warrant a *B-Intermediate* rating, where room temperatures are not expected to exceed 90°F. At temperatures above this, temperatures of the food space would be too high for safe food storage. *No life test was run on the *Astral*.

Abridged Cumulative Index of Previous 1950 Consumers' Research Bulletins

Month and Page		Month and Page		Month and Page	
Advertising copy overstatement	Oct., 3-4	Food		Radiation hazards	Mar., 24-26
Automobiles		allergy	Oct., 4, 29	Radio	
additives, for gasoline		broilers, flavor enhancer	Oct., 3	amplifiers, audio	Feb., 15-18
and oil	June, 21-24	cake mixes, storing	Oct., 3	booster, FM	Feb., 12
batteries, storage	Apr., 22	meat spoilage, prevention by ultraviolet, not proven	Oct., 30	transmitters, FM and AM-FM	Mar., 18-19
colors, popularity and durability	Oct., 4	orange juice, frozen	Mar., 12-13	Ranges, electric	July, 19-21
design	Oct., 17	adulteration	Oct., 29	Refrigerators	Sept., 5-11
engine preheaters	Jan., 24-25	Furniture		Rugs and carpets, cleaning on the floor	Aug., 12
gasoline, leaded	July, 26	repair gadget	Mar., 23		
premium	July, 24	Garbage disposal unit	Feb., 8	Sanitary napkins	Aug., 23-24
"new-car" smell	Oct., 23	Heating		Scales, bathroom	Sept., 21-22
1950	Jan., 9-11; Mar., 10-11	blowers for burning	May, 13-15	household, spring	Oct., 10-11
Apr., 9; June, 5-8; July, 5-14; Oct., 22		fuel, solid, hand-firing	Apr., 20-22	Scouring powders	June, 12-14
oil, crankcase, changing	Oct., 3	warm-air furnaces, automatically-fired	Jan., 18-21	Sewing machine, cabinets, selection	Oct., 30
tires	Jan., 22-23	gravity and forced-circulation	Feb., 22-26	toy	Sept., 22-23
transmissions	Jan., 12-14	Heels, rubber, men's	June, 11	Shavers, electric	Sept., 12-13
trouble light	Oct., 30	Iron, combination steam and dry	Jan., 26	conversion device for use with car battery	Sept., 13
Ball-pen cartridge refiller	Oct., 26	Lawn mowers, hand power	July, 15-16	Shears, pinking	Mar., 16-17
Batteries, flashlight	Apr., 24	Liqueurs or blenders	Aug., 9-12	Sheet	Sept., 16-18
Bedsprings, box	Apr., 10-12	Moths, clothes, prevention and control	Aug., 15-19	Silver-plating solution	Sept., 25-26
Carriages, baby, folding	Mar., 5-9	Motion pictures	each issue	Sleeping pills, overdoses	Oct., 4
Clocks, electric	May, 18-19	Office of unusual design	Oct., 24-25	Swans, laundry, household	Apr., 13-16
Clothing		Offer, fountain-pen style	Aug., 29-30	Sprayer, paint, electric	Jan., 31
garment carrier, plastic	Aug., 30	Ovenware, glass	Feb., 13-14	Table mats, linen vs. plastic	Oct., 4
gloves, men's	Feb., 5-8	Paint brushes, care	May, 17	Tables, folding	May, 30; Oct., 30
men's, lightweight	Oct., 4	Paints, house and barn	Apr., 17-19	Teeth	cleaning
name tapes	June, 26	pickup cartridge, replacing	Jan., 37-38	Telescope, inexpensive	May, 9
raincoats, men's, plastic film	May, 16-17	recorders, tape and wire	Jan., 15-17; May, 23	Television	
rest periods helpful	Oct., 29	recorder (Omegatron)	Mar., 25	antennas	May, 24-26
shoes, care	Sept., 11	Photographic books	July, 18	boosters	Feb., 11-12
suits, men's	Apr., 5-8	camera, "imitation reflex"	Jan., 33	receivers	May, 5-7; July, 17-18; Oct., 12-13
Coffee, soluble	Aug., 24-25; Sept., 30	miniature	Oct., 23	tuner	May, 7
Corrections and emendations	Jan., 14; Feb., 20; Mar., 14; Apr., 16; June, 17; Aug., 8; Sept., 18; Oct., 20	motion picture	Jan., 32	Tractor, garden	May, 20-21
Cosmetics		cameras, European plate and film-pack	Sept., 20	Typewriters, portable	Oct., 14-17
lipstick	June, 18-19	photofinishers	Jan., 33	Vacuum cleaners	Jan., 5-8
mail lacquer	Sept., 19-20	projectors, slide	Jan., 31-32	Vitamin supplements, need for wide use doubtful	Oct., 4
powders, baby and toilet	May, 12	Picture hanger	Jan., 33	Washing machines, small "personal"	Oct., 9
face	May, 10-12	Planer, rotary	Feb., 21	Washing machines, automatic	Jan., 27-30; May, 8-9
wrinkle remover, so-called	June, 28	Polishes, shoe	June, 15-17	hot-water supply	June, 8-10
CR's Bulletins, back numbers, special school rates	Sept., 13			nonautomatic	May, 9
in microfilm form	Sept., 19			Water heaters, storage, automatic oil-fired	Oct., 18-20
CR's name misleadingly used	Sept., 4			Waxes, floor	Mar., 21-23
Dehumidifier	Sept., 14-15			Weed killers	Aug., 22
Detergents, "no-rinse"	Aug., 29			Whiskers	Aug., 13-14
synthetic, house laundering	Aug., 20-22			Windows, storm and screen combination, aluminum	Apr., 23
Dishwashers, automatic and non-automatic	Oct., 5-9				
Dryers, clothes	Aug., 5-8				
Editorial	each issue, page 2				
Floor seats	May, 22-23				

Indicates that listings of names or brands are included.

Indicates that listings of names or brands are included.

RATINGS of MOTION PICTURES

THIS section aims to give critical consumers a digest of opinion from a wide range of motion picture reviews, including the motion picture trade press, leading newspapers and magazines—some 19 different periodicals in all. The motion picture ratings which follow thus do not represent the judgment of a single person, but are based on an analysis of critics' reviews.

The sources of the reviews are: *Box Office, Charm, Chicago Daily Tribune, Cue, Daily News (N.Y.), The Exhibitor, Harrison's Reports, Motion Picture Herald, National Legion of Decency List, Newsweek, New York Herald Tribune, New York Times, Parents' Magazine, Release of the D.A.R. Preview Committee, Sacrificial Farming, Time, Variety (weekly), Weekly Guide to Selected Motion Pictures* (National Board of Review of Motion Pictures, Inc.), and *Unbiased Opinions of Current Motion Pictures* which includes reviews by the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the American Legion Auxiliary, National Film Music Council, and others.

The figures preceding the title of the picture indicate the number of critics who have been judged to rate the film A (recommended), B (intermediate), or C (not recommended) on its entertainment values.

Audience suitability is indicated by "A" for adults, "Y" for young people (14-18), and "C" for children, at the end of each line.

Descriptive abbreviations are as follows:

adv—adventure
biog—biography
c—in color (Technicolor, Cinecolor, Trucolor, Magnacolor, Vitacolor, etc.)
car—cartoon
com—comedy
cri—crime and capture of criminals
doc—documentary
dr—drama
fant—fantasy
hist—based on historical incident
mel—melodrama
mus—musical
mys—mystery
non—dramatization of a novel
rom—romance
soc—social problem drama
trav—travelogue
war—dealing with the lives of people in wartime
wes—western

A	B	C		
1	3		Across the Badlands	mus-wes AYC
3	6		Admiral Was a Lady, The	mus-com A
1	4		All About Eve	dr A
9	9		Annie Get Your Gun	mus-com-c A
4	4		Arizona Cowboy, The	mus-wes AYC
7	3		Armored Car Robbery	cri-mel A
4	4		Arshin Takes a Wife	mus-com A
3	12	2	Asphalt Jungle, The	mel A
2	4		Avengers, The	mel A
7	6		Beauty on Parade	dr A
2	3		Beaver Valley	doc-c AYC
1	4		Beware of Blondie	com AYC
5	1		Beyond the Purple Hills	mus-wes-c AYC
4	9	3	Big Lift, The	war-dr AY
4	2		Bitter Rice	dr A
1	4	6	Black Rose, The	adv-c A
3	3		Black and Fire	dr A
7	2		Blue Lamp, The	cri-dr A
7	2		Bomba and the Lost Volcano	mel AYC
4	6		Bond Street	dr A
1	4	5	Border Street	war-dr A
4	4		Border Treasure	wes AYC
2	5		Born to be Bad	dr A
3	4		Boy from Indiana	mel A
2	4		Breaking Point, The	dr A
6	10		Bright Leaf	dr A
4	11	1	Broken Arrow	dr-c AYC
3	5		Bunco Squad	cri-mel A
4	9		Caged	soc-dr A
4	5		Captive Girl	adv-c AYC

A	B	C		
1	5	9	Capture, The	mel A
5	7		Cargo to Capetown	mel A
7	5		Cariboo Trail, The	wes-c AYC
2	11	2	Cheaper by the Dozen	dr-c AYC
1	3		Children of Chaos	dr A
6	1		Code of the Silver Sage	wes AYC
5	5		Colorado Ranger	wes AYC
5	6		Colt .45	wes-c AYC
1	8	2	Comanche Territory	mel-c AYC
4	3		Congolaise	trav-doc A
5	6		Convicted	dr A
1	4	3	Copper Canyon	mel-c A
1	4		Country Fair	dr-c AYC
2	4		Covered Wagon Raid	wes AYC
1	7	7	Crisis	soc-dr A
10	3		Curtain Call at Cactus Creek	mus-wes-c AYC
3	6		Customs Agent	mel A
6	10		Damned Don't Cry, The	dr A
2	3		Dancing Years, The	mus-com-c A
5	3		Dark City	mys-mel A
1	9	7	Daughter of Rosie O'Grady, The	mus-com-c A
8	1		David Harding, Counterspy	mys-mel AYC
1	4	1	Daybreak in Udi	doc A
1	3		Dear Mr. Prohack	com A
5	2		Death of a Dream	doc A
2	1		Deported	dr A
3	4		Desert Hawk, The	adv-c A
2	5		Destination Big House	mel A
12	1		Destination Moon	dr-c AYC
1	7		Destination Murder	cri-mel A
6	4		Devil's Doorway	wes AYC
5	4		Difficult Years	war-dr A
1	3		Distant Journey	war-dr A
10	6		Duchess of Idaho	mus-com-c AYC
5	12		Edge of Doom	dr A
2	1		Ellen	mys-mel A
4	2		Escape into Dreams	war-dr A
2	4		Everybody's Dancin'	mus-com AY
8	1		Eye Witness	mys A
1	9	4	Fancy Pants	mus-com AYC
1	2	1	Farewell to Yesterday	propaganda-doc A
1	4		Father Makes Good	com A
3	12	1	Father of the Bride	com AYC
4	8	2	Faust and the Devil	mus-dr A
2	3		Federal Man	cri-mel A
1	4		Fence Riders	wes AYC
12	1		50 Years Before Your Eyes	doc AY
2	4		Fighting Stallion, The	dr AYC
5	2		Fireball, The	mel AYC
1	9	3	Flame and the Arrow, The	dr-c A
1	5		Forbidden Jungle	mel A
4	6		Foreign Legion, The	com AYC
5	6		Fortunes of Captain Blood, The	mel AYC
4	4		Four Days Leave	war-com-c A
3	2		Frightened City	mel A
1	2		Frisco Tornado	wes AYC
4			Fuller Brush Girl, The	com AYC
1	6	11	Furies, The	wes A
4			Girl in a Million, A	com A
3	1		Girls Behind Bars	dr A
2	3		Glass Menagerie, The	dr A
6	4		Golden Gloves Story, The	dr AY
3	1		Golden Salamander	cri-mel A
3	8	2	Golden Twenties, The	mus-doc AYC
9	4		Good Humor Man, The	com AYC
7			Good Time Girl	mel A
6	5		Great Jewel Robbery, The	cri-mel A
1	3		Gun Crazy	cri-mel AYC
1	10	2	Gun Fighter, The	wes AYC

A	B	C				A	B	C			
3	2	Gunfire	mel A			9	4	Petty Girl, The	com-c A		
1	2	Gunslingers	wee AYC			7	2	Pretty Baby	com A		
						3		Prisoners in Petticoats	cri-mel A		
2	2	Happiest Days of Your Life, The	com A			1	5	Rapture	dr A		
1	2	Happy Years, The	com-c AYC			2	1	Redwood Forest Trail	mus-wee AYC		
5	3	Harbor of Missing Men	mel AY			1	2	Return of Jesse James, The	wee AYC		
6		Heart and Soul	dr A			5	6	Return of the Frontiersman	wee AYC		
7	1	High Lonesome	wee-c AYC			5	1	Rider from Tucson	wee A		
1	4	Hi-Jacked	cri-mel A			5	1	Right Cross	dr AYC		
6	1	Hills of Oklahoma	mus-wee AYC			10	2	Rock Island Trail	mus-mel-c AYC		
5	1	Holy Year, 1950	doc AYC			6	5	Rocketship XM	mel AYC		
3	2	Hostile Country	wee AYC			1	10	Rocking Horse Winner, The	dr A		
5	9	House by the River	mys-mel A			6	4	Rogues of Sherwood Forest	adv-c AYC		
1	7	Humphrey Takes a Chance	com AYC			1	4	Rookie Fireman	mel A		
						4		Rules of the Game, The	com A		
2	2	I Shot Billy the Kid	wee AYC			12	3	Run for Your Money, A	com AYC		
2	7	If This Be Sin	dr A								
1	10	In a Lonely Place	mel A			6	1	Saddle Tramp	wee-c AYC		
3		Indian Territory	mus-wee AYC			2	6	Salt Lake Raiders	wee AYC		
2	2	Invisible Army, The	war-dr A			5	2	Savage Horde, The	wee AYC		
5	2	Iroquois Trail, The	nov AYC			9	6	Secret Fury, The	mel A		
5	3	It's a Small World	dr A			3	2	Secrets of Nature	doc A		
1	10	Jackie Robinson Story, The	biog AYC			2	2	September Affair	dr A		
1	7	Johnny One Eye	dr A			9	6	711 Ocean Drive	cri-mel A		
4	3	Jungle Stampede	adv-doc A			3	5	Shakedown	cri-mel A		
						6	3	Showdown, The	wee A		
	6	Kill or Be Killed	cri-mel A			3	4	Sideshow	dr-c AYC		
7	5	Kill the Umpire	com AYC			6	7	Sierra	mus-wee-c AYC		
5	1	Killer Shark	mel A			3		Sin of Anna Lans, The	dr A		
1	11	Kind Hearts and Coronets	com A			8	7	Skipper Surprised His Wife, The	com AYC		
6	6	Kiss Tomorrow Goodbye	cri-mel A			8	2	Sleeping City, The	cri-mel A		
						5	1	Snow Dog	mel AYC		
5	6	Lady Without Passport, A	dr A			5		So Long at the Fair	mys-mel A		
13	2	Lawless, The	soc-dr A			5	7	So Young, So Bad	dr A		
1	2	Lenin	doc-biog A			9	6	Spy Hunt	mel AYC		
6	2	Let's Dance	mus-com-c AY			2	5	Square Dance Katy	mus-com AYC		
6	3	Life of Her Own, A	dr A			3	5	State Penitentiary	mel A		
1	4	Lonely Hearts Bandits	mel A			4	6	Stella	com A		
1	10	Louisa	com AYC			3		Storm Within, The	dr A		
1	2	Love of a Clown	mus-dr A			2	3	Streets of Ghost Town	mus-wee AYC		
8	6	Love that Brute	com A			2	10	Summer Stock	mus-dr-c AYC		
4	1	Lucky Losers	mel A			8	8	Sunset Boulevard	cri-mel A		
6	2	Ma and Pa Kettle Go to Town	com AYC			1	2	Tainted	dr A		
2	4	Mad About the Opera	mus-dr A			1	8	Tea for Two	mus-com-c A		
9	7	Madeleine	cri-dr A			1	4	Texas Dynamo	mus-wee AYC		
2	1	Madness of the Heart	dr A			2	9	This Side of the Law	mel A		
6	10	Men, The	war-dr A			3	2	Three Husbands	dr A		
3	2	Messenger of Peace	dr AYC			1	12	Three Little Words	mus-com-c AYC		
1	8	Military Academy	dr AYC			7	2	Three Secrets	dr A		
2	4	Mister 880	dr A			2	11	Ticket to Tomahawk, A	mus-wee-c AYC		
1	5	Modern Marriage, A	doc-dr A			5		Timber Fury	mel AYC		
6	2	Motor Patrol	cri-mel AY			1	4	Toast of New Orleans, The	mus-com-c AYC		
1	4	Mr. Music	mus-com AYC			2	10	Torch, The	dr A		
1	4	Mrs. Fitzherbert	hist-dr A			1	3	Trail of the Rustlers	mus-wee AYC		
6	3	Mule Train	mus-wee-c AYC			4		Train to Tombstone	wee A		
1	8	My Blue Heaven	mus-com-c A			6	13	Treasure Island	not-c AYC		
8	8	My Friend Irma Goes West	mus-com A			1	6	Trial Without Jury	cri-mel A		
4	4	My Widow and I	com A			5	2	Trigger, Jr.	mus-wee-c A		
4	4	Mystery at the Burlesque	mus-mel A			1	3	Triple Trouble	com A		
1	12	Mystery Street	cri-mel A			8	1	Twilight in the Sierras	mus-wee-c AYC		
3	7	Next Voice You Hear, The	dr AYC			2	3	Underworld Story, The	mys-mel A		
7	7	Night and the City	mys-mel A			9	2	Union Station	mel A		
3	10	No Sad Songs for Me	dr A								
2	9	No Way Out	soc-mel A			2	6	Vanishing Westerner, The	wee AYC		
2	2	Noah's Ark	dr A			4		Victors and the Vanquished, The	war-dr A		
						3	3	Vigilante Hideout	wee AYC		
	3	O Sole Mio	mus-dr A			7	3	Wabash Avenue	mus-com-c A		
	3	Old Frontier, The	wee A			1	11	Wagonmaster	mus-wee AYC		
	3	On the Isle of Samoa	mel A			4	1	Walk Softly, Stranger	cri-mel A		
	3	Once a Thief	mel A			2	3	West of the Brazos	wee AYC		
	6	One Way Street	cri-mel A			2	3	When You're Smiling	mus-com AYC		
1	3	Operation Haylift	dr AYC			1	6	Where Danger Lives	mys-mel A		
	1	Original Sin, The	mus-fan A			10	2	Where the Sidewalk Ends	cri-mel A		
2	11	Our Very Own	dr A			7	3	While the Sun Shines	com A		
	2	Outcast of Black Mesa	mus-wee AYC			2	9	White Tower, The	dr-c AY		
	4	Outrage	dr A			2	11	Winchester '73	wee A		
2	10	Panic in the Streets	mel A			3	4	With These Hands	doc-dr AYC		
	5	Paris Waltz, The	mus-com A			1	6	Women from Headquarters	mel AYC		
	8	Peggy	com-c AYC								
	4	Perfect Woman, The	com A			1	2	World Youth Festival	doc-c A		

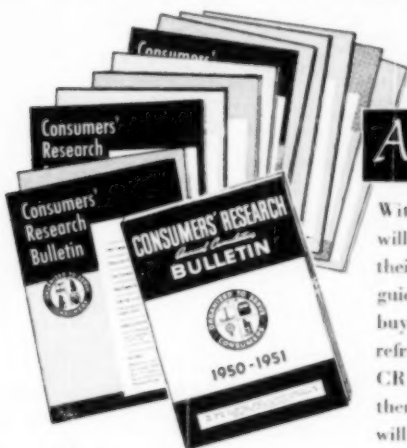
The Consumers' Observation Post

(Continued from page 4)

ene. When the two cleansers of the types in question are combined, a quantity of chlorine gas may be released which, the coroner pointed out, may cause the person inhaling it to choke to death, unless he is able to get to fresh air quickly. The cleansers are not considered dangerous when used alone, with proper precautions in accordance with instructions on the labels.

CHRISTMAS TREES will not be on the market for some time, but consumers who are planning to buy them may well make preparations for fireproofing them according to directions supplied by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. The only chemical treatment the Station has found satisfactory is to apply a mixture of waterglass, either by spraying or dipping the tree in it. The most effective results were secured in the Station's test by combining 9 parts of waterglass (soluble sodium silicate, available at many drugstores, hardware stores, and farm supply stores) with 1 part of water, containing a teaspoonful of wetting agent (such as Dreft or other packaged soap substitute) per quart. The waterglass was found to give a shiny, translucent finish to the foliage; best results were secured by keeping the tree standing in water following the treatment.

PRICES OF NEW AND SECONDHAND CARS have for years been set by dealers on the basis of rates suggested by various published car guides, although dealers



12 ISSUES

and the Annual Cumulative Bulletin for 1950, over 220 pages of CR's findings!

\$4.75



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Please use the handy order blank to be found on the next page.

Consumers' Research Bulletin

CONSUMERS' RESEARCH BULLETIN • NOVEMBER, 1950 • 29

can legally sell at whatever prices they please. This "time-mellowed trade system of manufacturer-suggested prices" is being investigated by the Federal government as a price-fixing device, according to Motor, the outstanding trade magazine in the field. Consternation among dealers who have priced new cars and trucks on factory recommendations for years was caused by a decision in Los Angeles where a Federal Court ordered the discontinuance of a plumbing wholesalers' "blue book" as attempted price-fixing, and Federal attorneys in the case "surmised" that automobile guides might be in the same classification.

SNOW TIRES and tires with special abrasive treads are effective in providing greater traction on snowy roads, but car owners with these types of tires are warned against overconfidence by the Automotive Digest. In cold weather on dry ice, the magazine reported, their stopping distance was no shorter than ordinary tires, although they were found to do a 13 percent better stopping job on wet ice at higher temperatures.

NEWLY AVAILABLE OR NEWLY TESTED:

Winchester Flashlight X4412 (Winchester Repeating Arms Co., Div. of Olin Industries Inc., New Haven 4, Conn.), \$1.89. Metal case coated with a phosphorescent substance glows for a few hours after being exposed to a light source. This property is common to certain substances such as the sulfides of calcium and barium. The advantage is that the flashlight case can be seen at night for the few hours that the phosphorescence persists. The glow will fade almost completely, however, in 3 to 5 hours after the flashlight case has been illuminated for a time by exposure to strong light.



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CR-11-50

PHONOGRAPH RECORDS

BY WALTER ZERUWINGER

Please Note: In the ratings AA indicates highly recommended; A, recommended; B, intermediate; C, not recommended. Although nearly all new releases of serious music are heard, space narrows comment, generally, to items which merit high ratings.

Bach: *Passacaglia and Fugue in C Minor*, and *Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor*. Fritz Heitmann (organ). Capitol-Telefunken LP 8105. \$3.85. Played at the Berlin Dom Organ and recorded with satisfactory range and a reverberation period that helps create the illusion of hearing the performance in a cathedral. Great music interpreted with keen insight. Some background noise in soft passages.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

Borodin: *Prince Igor — Dances of the Polovetzki Maidens*. Stokowski and His Symphony Orchestra with Women's Chorus. 4 sides, RCA Victor Set WDM 1386. \$2.40. Stokowski's theatrical approach suits this music but the recording requires more bass and dynamic range to match the best of today. Beecham on Columbia Set X54 offers a performance with more nuance, but is an oldish recording.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

Delius: *Over the Hills and Far Away* & *Bizet: Fair Maid of Perth Suite*. Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Beecham. Columbia LP 2133. \$3.85. Neither work presents the composer at his best though the early Delius is more subtle. Both are well played and recorded.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

Franck: *Symphony in D Minor*. San Francisco Symphony Orchestra under Montoux. RCA Victor LP 1065. \$4.85. Franck's only symphony, generally regarded as a masterpiece in the cyclic style. New recording, vastly superior to the earlier Victor Set 840, by the same orchestra and conductor. Montoux projects this music most effectively. Despite a little brassiness, plenty of punch and richness to the recording.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

Rise Stevens Sings Victor Herbert Favorites (mezzo-soprano). 8 sides, RCA Victor Set WDM 1396. \$4.30. "Moonbeams," "Gypsy Love Song," "Because You're You," etc., sung with comforting warmth. Clear enunciation. Fine recording.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

Mozart: *Idomeneo, Rê di Creta* together with the *Ballet Music*. Vienna Symphony Orchestra with soloists and chorus of the Vienna State Opera under von Zallinger. 8 sides, Haydn Society Set 2020. \$23.80. Substantially complete performance of a seldom played Mozart opera which includes many lovely passages. Static direction and undistinguished singing by some of the principals, particularly Gertrud Grob-Prandl in the part of Elettra. The recording of the orchestra is hard and lacks some detail but the voices are close in and clear. Libretto furnished.

Interpretation B
Fidelity of Recording A

Mozart: *Symphonies Nos. 38 and 41*. Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Beecham. Columbia LP 4313. \$4.85. Two of Mozart's greatest symphonies. Beecham's performances are profound, at times finicky, but nearly always noble and great. Broad, live recording which, like many LP's, favors the middle and high registers. Yet there is extraordinary value here.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

Offenbach: *Helen of Troy* (Suite from the Ballet). Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra under Dorati. RCA Victor LP 22. \$3.85. The conductor orchestrated and arranged the original score which partly explains why he performs it so well. But this is not Offenbach's most scintillating music.

The recording is narrow-ranged and veiled, with too little detail coming through.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording B

Paganini: *Concerto No. 1*. Francescatti (violin) with the Philadelphia Orchestra under Ormandy & **Saint Saens:** *Concerto No. 3*. Francescatti with the Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra of N. Y. under Mitropoulos. Columbia LP 4315. \$4.85. The Paganini is full of dazzling effects and finger-tapping tunes but no genius, whereas the Saint Saens is probably the best of this composer's five concertos — polished, charming, distinguished in a mild sort of way. Francescatti plays both broadly, with suave tone and a few minor slips. The weight of the orchestra in the Saint Saens sometimes buries him, as happens occasionally in a concert performance, but in all other respects a praiseworthy disk with big toned, wide-range recording.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

Roussel: *Symphony No. 4* and *Suite in F*. Lamoureux Orchestra, Paris, under Tzipine. Capitol-Telefunken LP 8104. \$4.85. Two of this French modernist's best works get a rousing performance. Slightly veiled recording emphasizing high frequencies but lacking richness.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

Schubert: *Mass in E Flat*. Rathauscher, Panyavsky, Hofstaetter, Werry, Equiluz, and Akademie Kammerchor, and Vienna Symphony Orchestra under Moralt. 4 sides, Polydor-Vox Set 1750. \$7.70. Schubert's sixth and last mass, composed in the year of his death. It is elaborate, lyric, personal, inspired. Vox deserves high praise for bringing it out. The soloists and ensemble are first rate and the recording, though a bit short of depth, is clear and pleasing in all other respects. And surfaces are nearly inaudible.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

Schubert: *Quintet in A Major for Piano and Strings* ("Forellen"). Members of the Budapest Quartet with Horszowski and Moleux. Columbia LP 4317. \$4.85. A beautiful work, among Schubert's masterpieces. Ensemble expert, with pianist Horszowski fitting in like a cog in a wheel. Good reproduction. Tops all other recordings of this composition.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

Sibelius: *Symphony No. 2*. Orchestra des Konzertvereins, Stockholm, under Mann. Capitol-Telefunken LP 8107. \$4.85. One of Sibelius' most accessible symphonies with themes you are likely to whistle. Koussevitzky's dramatic interpretation remains my favorite but there is a lot to be said for the performance presented here. The recording is satisfactory, though the harsh highs demand some roll off and lean bass invites boost.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

Love Songs. Jan Peerce (tenor). 6 sides, RCA Victor Set WDM 1398. \$3.35. Mr. Peerce sings the well-known love songs. "A Dream," "For You Alone," "I Love You Truly," etc., with convincing fervor in full, robust voice. Crisp enunciation. Orchestra accompanied with plenty of violin obbligato. Excellent recording. Few will ask for anything more.

Interpretation AA
Fidelity of Recording A

RECOMMENDED RCA VICTOR SINGLE DISKS. Mario Lanza sings *Lolita* and *Granada* on 49-1169 and Gladys Swarthout sings the "Habanera" and the "Seguidilla" from *Carmen* on 49-1251. Boston Symphony plays Ravel's *La Valse* on 49-1213.

